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**52 PAGES  
BEST BUY IN COMICS**

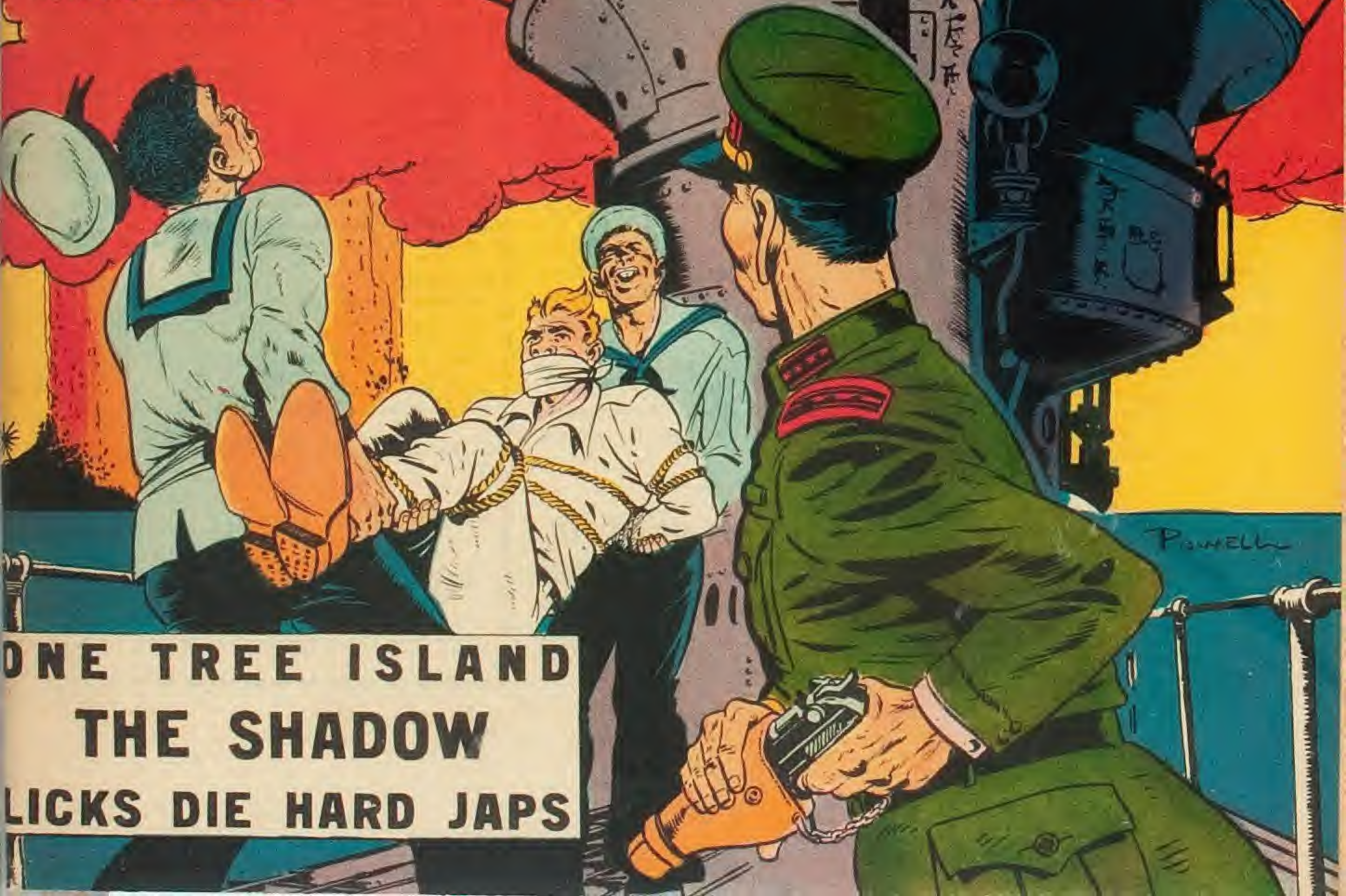
# Shadow COMICS

Reg. U. S. Pat. & Tm. Off.

**VOL. 7 NO. 4  
JULY 1947**

**10¢**

**Featuring  
THE SHADOW  
Exciting Hero of  
RADIO  
SCREEN  
MAGAZINE**



**ONE TREE ISLAND  
THE SHADOW  
LICKS DIE HARD JAPS**

# JOE DIMAGGIO'S OWN STORY!

- How he rose from the sandlots of San Francisco to "tops" in Big League Baseball!
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"In my opinion Joe does everything to Baseball in the."—Connie Mack.

"I had a ball player as spoked shoe."—Joe

"Joe keeps alive the low reputation of the Babe Ruth."

# THE SHADOW

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

## AND THE MYSTERY OF ONE TREE ISLAND



**T**HE DIE-HARD JAPS, OPERATING FROM AN UNDERWATER BASE, CAPTURE AN AMERICAN ATOMIC BOMB! BUT THE SHADOW, WHO KNOWS ALL, FOLLOWS TO THEIR LAIR OF EVIL AND DESTROYS THEIR HIDE-OUT, ONE TREE ISLAND, SAVING FOR THE U.S. THE GREATEST SECRET OF ALL TIME!

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1.00

IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, 4500 MILES FROM THE UNITED STATES, THE NAVY MAKES SECRET TESTS OF THE ATOMIC BOMB.....

THAT'S IT, SIR.....ATOM BOMB NUMBER FIVE!  
AYE, CAPTAIN.....LET'S GO BELOW!



HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE TO BRING THE BOMB TO KWJALEIN, CAPTAIN?  
ABOUT FOUR WEEKS, SIR!



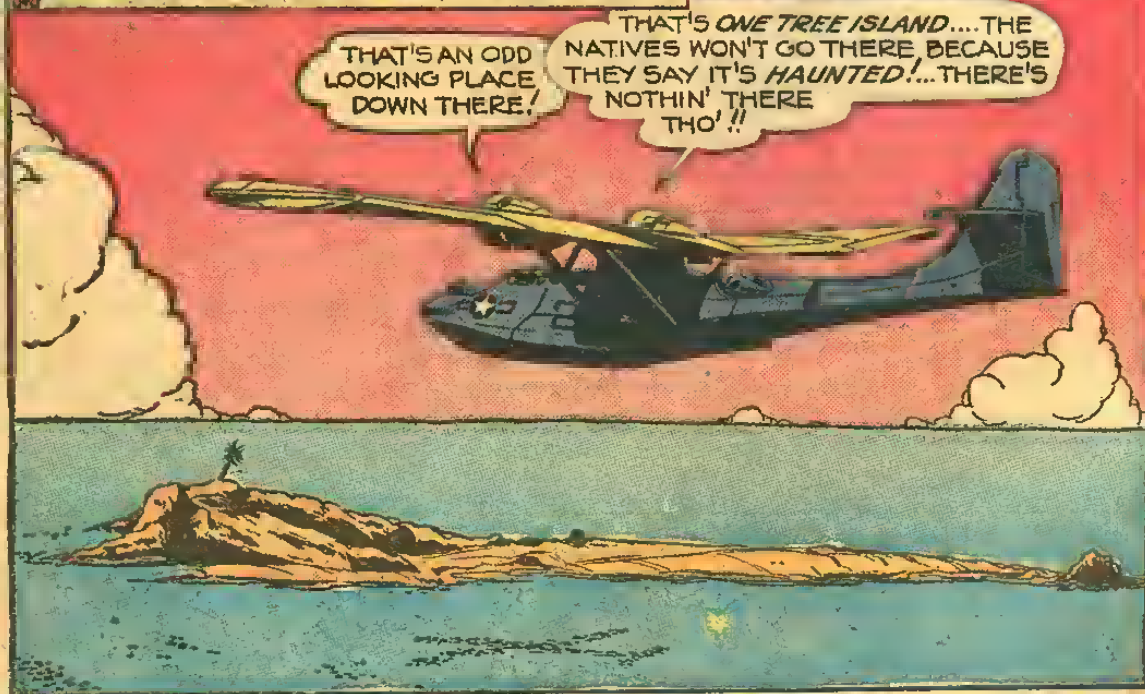
THEN WE'LL GO AHEAD WITH ONE MORE TEST...BUT, GENTLEMEN, REMEMBER! ABSOLUTE SECRECY MUST BE MAINTAINED AT ALL COSTS!



MEANWHILE ON A ROUTINE PACIFIC PATROL RUN.....

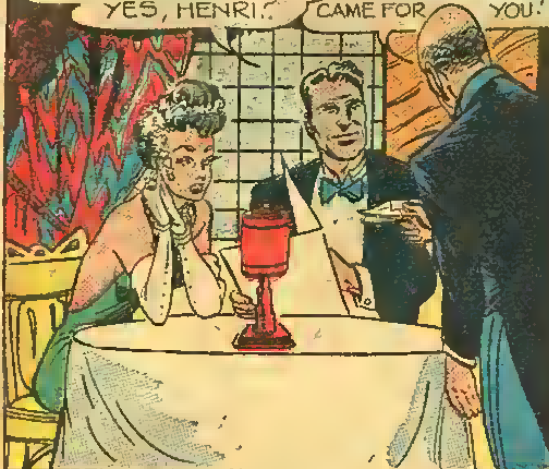
THAT'S AN ODD LOOKING PLACE DOWN THERE!

THAT'S ONE TREE ISLAND....THE NATIVES WON'T GO THERE BECAUSE THEY SAY IT'S HAUNTED!...THERE'S NOTHIN' THERE THO'!!

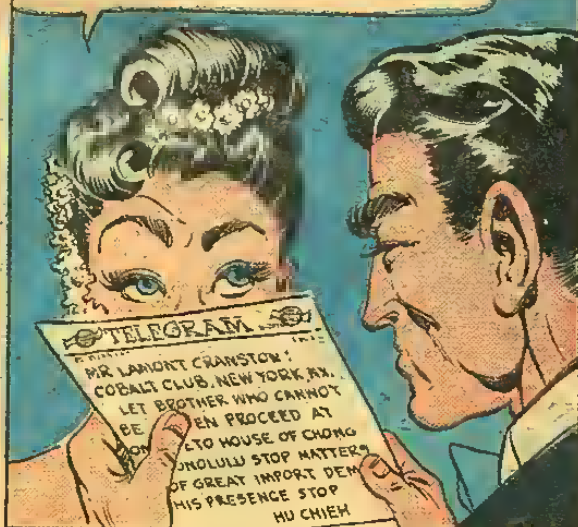


AT THAT MOMENT 7500 MILES AWAY...IN NEW YORK'S SMART COBALT CLUB LAMONT CRANSTON AND MARGO LANE SIT DOWN TO DINNER...

HOW ABOUT A THICK JUICY PORTERHOUSE STEAK, MARGO, PARDON, M'SIEUR, ZIS WITH FRENCH FRI... TELEGRAM YES, HENRI? CAME FOR YOU!



WELL?... DO I EAT STEAK OR NOT?...



HUH?...OH YES...SURE!...BUT I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE RIGHT AFTER...HMM! IT MUST BE PRETTY SERIOUS IF THE HARMONIOUS BROTHERHOOD

OH, LAMONT!! CAN'T WE EVER...? OH, NEVER MIND!...WHO ARE THEY? WANT ME TO COME TO HONOLULU!



THE HARMONIOUS BROTHERHOOD?...THEY'RE A VERY SECRET CHINESE SOCIETY PLEDGED TO THE SUPPRESSION OF EVIL THROUGHOUT THE WORLD...

BUT WHERE DO YOU FIT...?

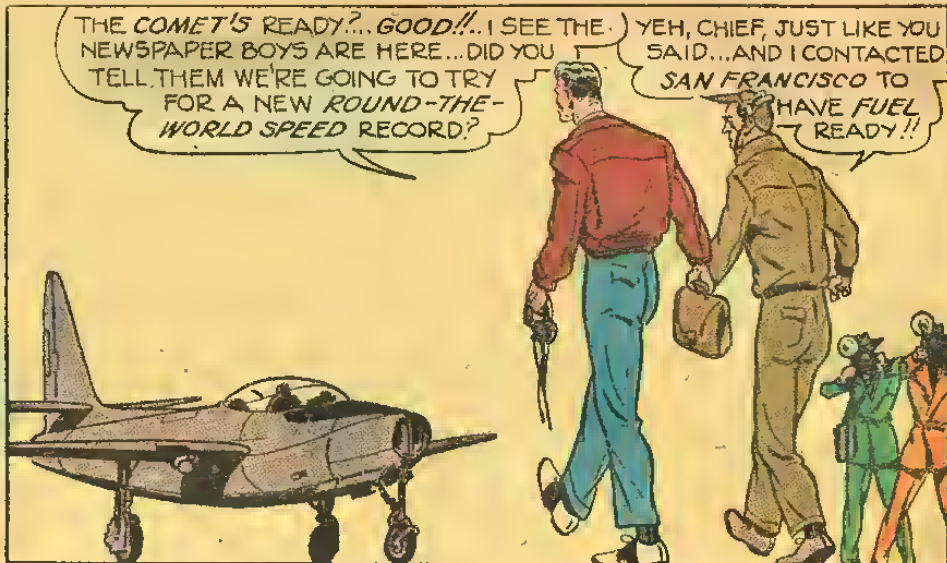


I WAS INITIATED MANY YEARS AGO IN SHANGHAI...HU CHIEH IS THE ELDEST BROTHER, OR CHIEF,

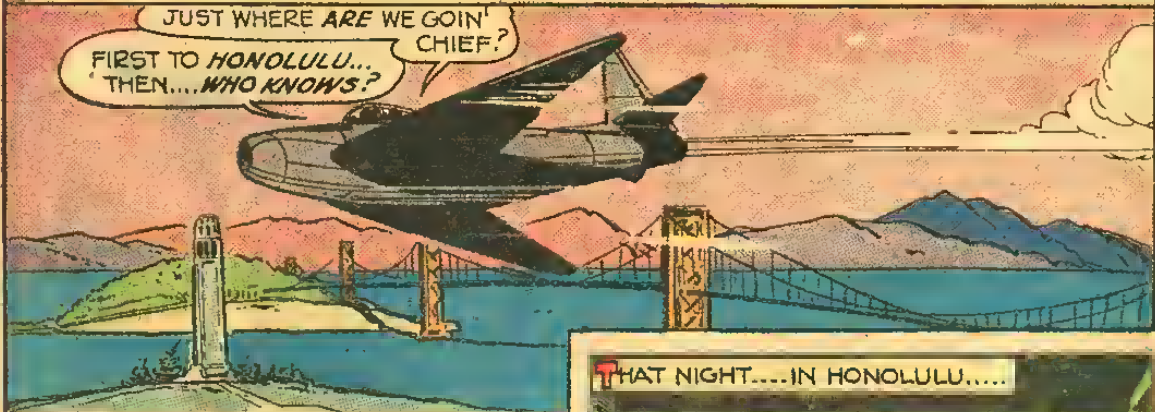
AND IT'S HE I HAVE TO CONTACT!



DRIVING HIS SECRETARY TO HER HOME CRANSTON GOES ON TO HIS OFFICE WHERE HE CONTACTS ONE OF HIS AIDES, HARRY VINCENT, AND GIVES HIM SOME QUICK INSTRUCTIONS! EARLY THE NEXT MORNING HE MEETS HARRY AT THE AIRPORT AND TOGETHER THEY STRIDE OUT TO A SLEEK JET AIRCRAFT...



SIX HOURS LATER THE COMET LANDS IN SAN FRANCISCO, REFUELS AND HEADS OUT OVER THE PACIFIC.



BEFORE ENTERING THE HOUSE OF CHONG RESTAURANT CRANSTON OPENS HIS BRIEF CASE, MAKES A QUICK CHANGE AND BECOMES THE

# SHADOW



I AM HERE, HARMONIOUS BROTHERS!



ENTRANCE TO COUNCIL CHAMBER LIES AHEAD, MY BROTHER....GO RIGHT IN!



THERE IS *EVIL* AFOOT, *MAN OF SHADOW!* THE *RONINKAI* SPAWN OF THE *BLACK DRAGON SOCIETY*, HAVE ESCAPED FROM JAPAN AND EVEN NOW THEY PLOT TO STEAL THE GREAT *ATOMIC SECRET* OF YOUR NATION AND CARRY IT TO THEIR HEADQUARTERS ON *ONE TREE ISLAND!* OBVIOUSLY, THEY WILL AGAIN TRY TO *CONQUER THE WORLD!*



HOW IS ALL THIS KNOWN, ELDEST BROTHER?!

OUR SOCIETY HAS EYES AND EARS EVERYWHERE BUT *ONLY YOU*, UNSEEN ONE, CAN CHECK THESE EVIL SCHEMES, LISTEN!...I WILL TELL YOU THE STORY!...

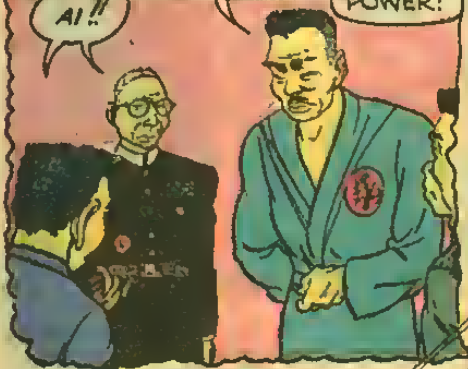


AFTER JAPAN'S SURRENDER, THE EVIL GENIUS, **TOYAMA**, CALLED TOGETHER THE RONINKAI HEADS AND TOLD THEM.....

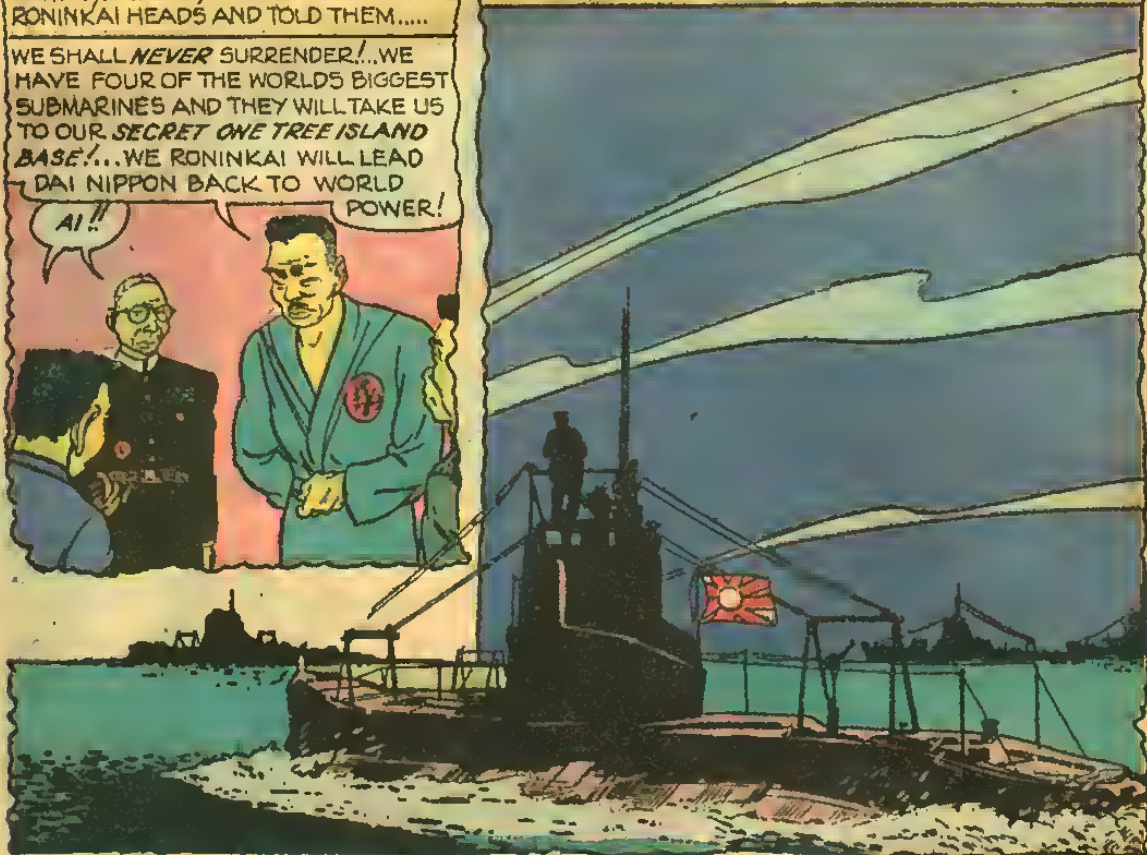
WE SHALL **NEVER** SURRENDER!...WE HAVE FOUR OF THE WORLD'S BIGGEST SUBMARINES AND THEY WILL TAKE US TO OUR **SECRET ONE TREE ISLAND BASE**!...WE RONINKAI WILL LEAD DAI NIPPON BACK TO WORLD

POWER!

AI!!

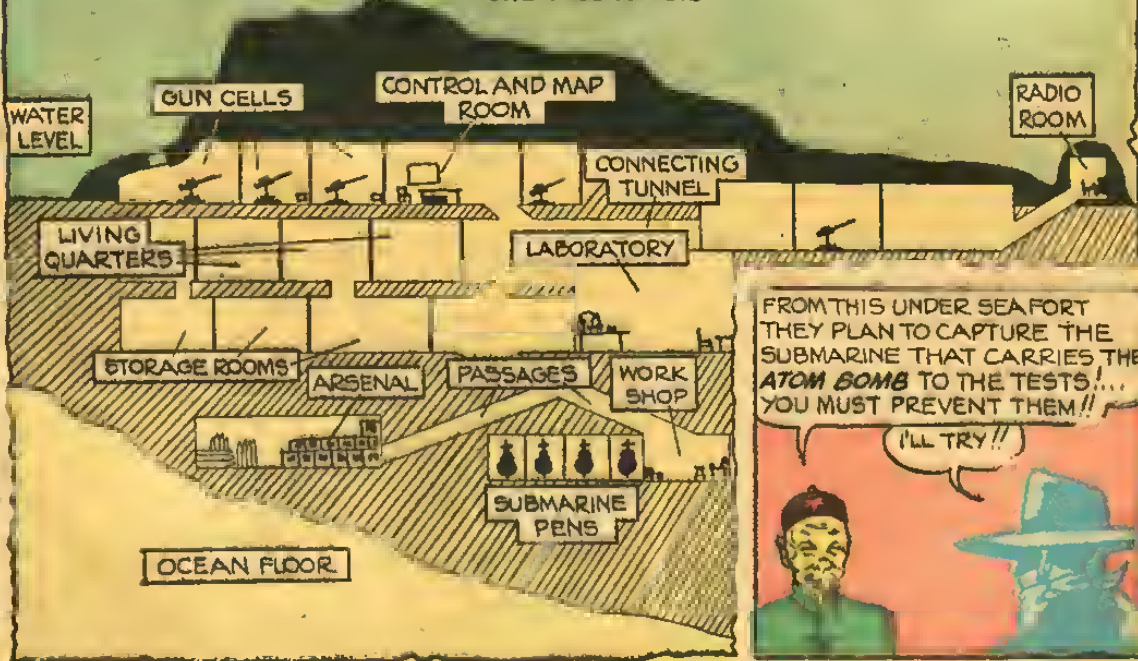


STEALING AWAY IN THE DEAD OF THE NIGHT, THE RONINKAI SLIPPED PAST THE ALLIED PATROLS AND HEADED SOUTH..



SAFELY THEY MADE THEIR WAY TO THE ISLAND THEY HAD BEEN SECRETLY FORTIFYING FOR TWENTY YEARS!

DIAGRAM OF ONE TREE ISLAND



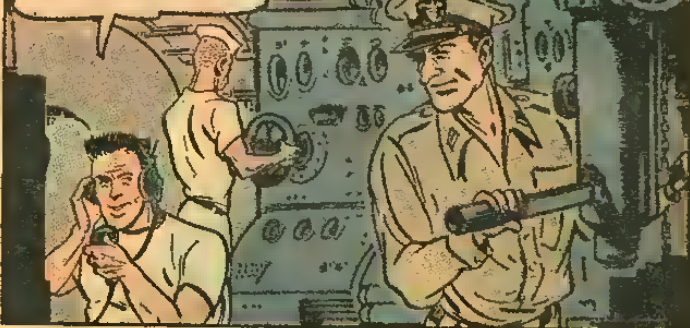
FROM THIS UNDER SEA FORT THEY PLAN TO CAPTURE THE SUBMARINE THAT CARRIES THE **ATOM BOMB** TO THE TESTS!... YOU MUST PREVENT THEM!!

I'LL TRY!!



MEANWHILE FAR OUT AT SEA A U.S. SUBMARINE...THE *BATFISH*...WITH THE *ATOMIC BOMB* ON BOARD GLIDES TOWARDS AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION..

MESSAGE FROM HEADQUARTERS. *RIGHT!.. SEND THIS POSITION ....*  
SIR!...*"CHANGE COURSE NORTHWEST 30 DEGREES... GIVE POSITION"....*



*GOOD!...* "BATFISH TO HEADQUARTERS..8°4' NORTH 169° 6' EAST WERE ABOUT 520 MILES SOUTHEAST OF RONGERIK... OUT"  
CALL THE OTHERS TO MY OFFICE!!  
AI!!  
THAT'S IT, EXCELLENCY!!



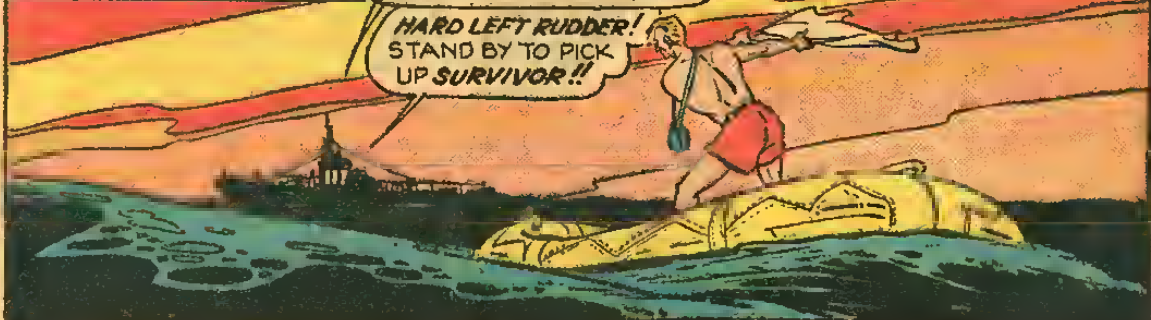
HERE IS THE PLAN...*VON ESSHEIM* WILL BE ON RAFT WITH *SLEEPING GAS* CONTAINER...OUR SUBMARINES WILL BE FIFTEEN MILES AWAY BEYOND RANGE OF THEIR DETECTORS....*YOU VON ESSHEIM* CAN GIVE SIGNAL FOR OUR CLOSING IN BY LETTING FUMES FROM CAN ESCAPE!!  
*JA!..WELL...I BETTER GET READY, HEIN? "*

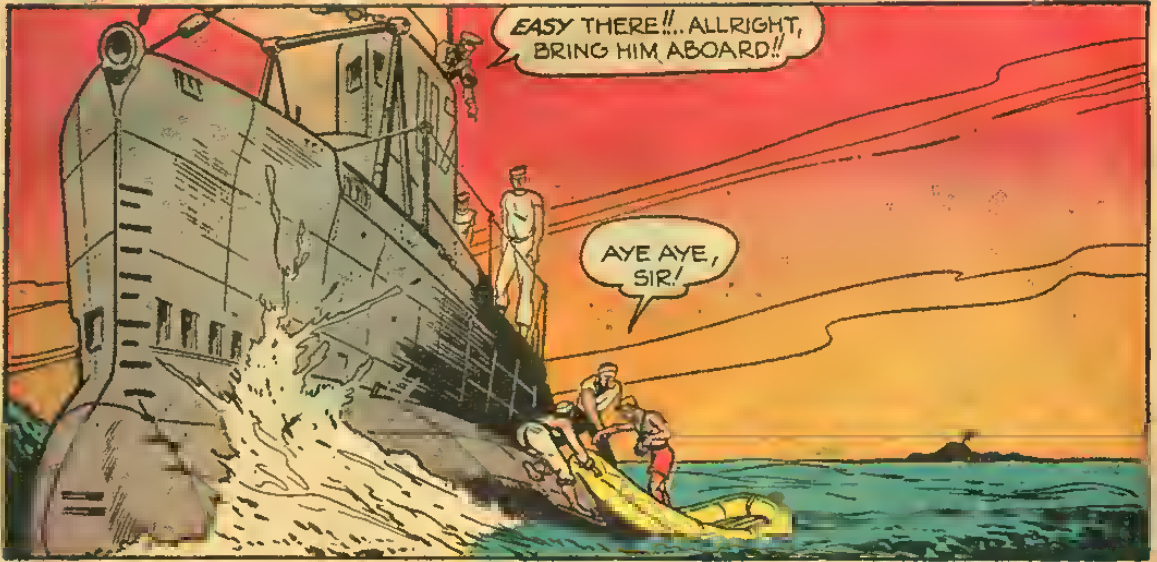


SEVERAL HOURS LATER ....

CASTAWAY TO PORT, SIR!!

*HARD LEFT RUDDER!*  
STAND BY TO PICK UP SURVIVOR!!





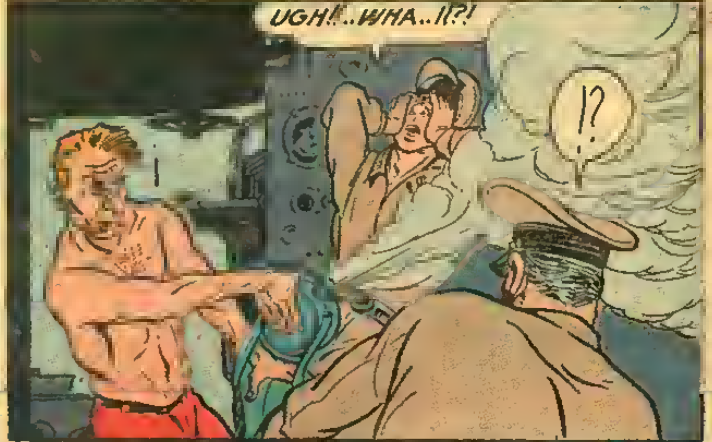
EASY THERE!!... ALLRIGHT,  
BRING HIM ABOARD!!

AYE AYE,  
SIR!

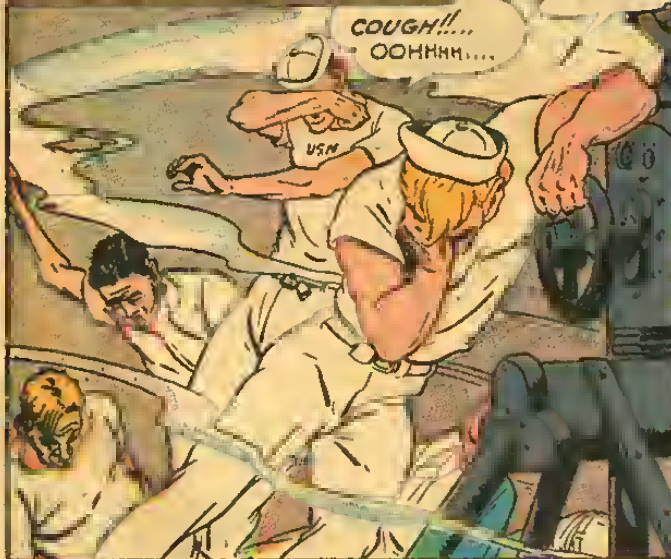
JA, CAPTAIN!! I'VE BEEN FLOATING  
FOR *SEVEN DAYS* AND YESTERDAY  
MY CANTEEN WENT DRY!!... LOOK I  
*SHOW YOU!!*



UGH!!... WHA...!!?!



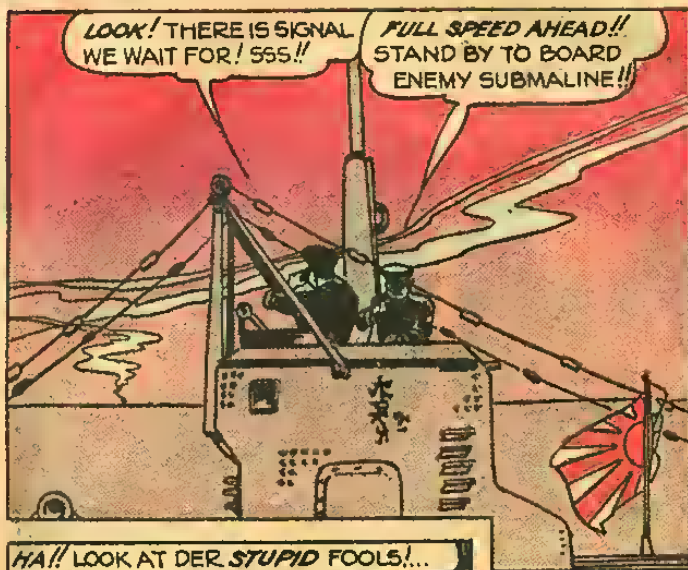
COUGH... GOTTA...  
KEEP... AWAKE...  
GOTTA... COUGH...  
UHHHH...



COUGH!!...  
OOHHHH...

HA!!... DER  
CYCLO-PROPANE GAS WORKED!  
ALL I HAD TO DO WAS HOLD MY  
BREATH!!... NOW TO  
SIGNAL DER  
OTHERS!!





STEER COURSE  
FULL SPEED FOR  
ONE TREE  
ISLAND!



LOOK!! THAT'S THE **BATFISH** AND THEY'RE BRINGING THE CREW ASHORE!! THEY'VE GOT **THE BOMB** TOO!!  
COME ON!!...LET'S SLIP IN AMONGST THE CREW!!



MUST WE??

OUR PLAN WAS GREAT SUCCESS EXCELLENCY!! THE **ATOM BOMB** IS EVEN NOW BEING PUT INTO THE ARSENAL!!

AH SA!! GOOD!!!



AMERICAN DOGS!!...WHEN **BOMB** IS UNLOADED YOU WILL BE TOWED OUT TO SEA AND **SUNK IN YOUR OWN SHIP!!**...HA!  
OUR PLANE CRASHED... WHO IS **THIS PERSON**?!  
THESE MEN PICKED US UP!

?

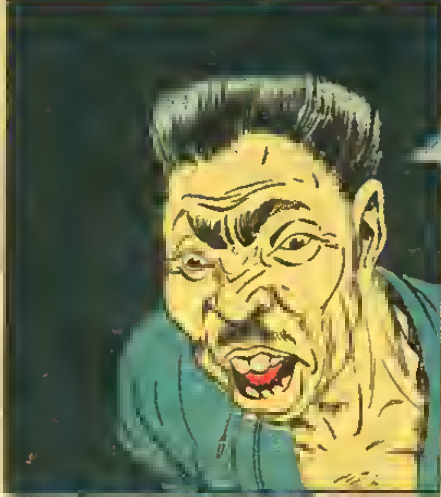


TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE DARKNESS AND CONFUSION, CRANSTON SLIPS BEHIND A ROCK AND TEARING OPEN HIS KNAPSACK, FLINGS ON HIS SHADOW COSTUME.....

NOW'S MY CHANCE!  
NOW OR NEVER!!



HA!!...WELL THE SEA WILL CLAIM YOU **ANYWAY!!**...YOU WILL **DIE** WITH THE REST!!... TAKE THEM AWAY!!... LOCK THEM UP UNTIL WE ARE READY TO **DISPOSE OF THEM!!**...SSSS!!



SILENTLY AND INVISIBLY, THE SHADOW SLIPS INTO THE CAVERNS.....

I THOUGHT SO!! A LEAD-IN WIRE FROM THE TREE WHICH IS REALLY A **RADIO ANTENNA**..NOW TO MAKE UP MY **OWN** HOOK UP!!

ONE TREE ISLAND CALLING  
AMERICAN NAVAL BASE.  
ONE TREE ISLAND CALLING  
AMERICAN NAVAL BASE!!

MEANWHILE  
ABOARD AN  
AMERICAN  
BATTLESHIP..

EIGHT HOURS AND NOT A WORD!!..NOT ONE  
WORD!! WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED?  
CAN'T YOU RAISE THEM AT  
ALL, MISTER?

NO, SIR!  
I'VE GOT ALL CIRCUITS  
OPEN AND....

WAIT!... SOMETHING'S COMING  
IN!!...LISTEN!!.. IT SOUNDS  
LIKE....IT'S VERY WEAK...IT  
SOUNDS...YES...ONE TREE

ISLAND CALLING AMERICAN NAVAL  
BASE...S.S. BATFISH CAPTURED  
AND HELD HERE !!.../HURRY!!!..

CEASAR'S GHOSTS!...THERE'S SOME PBY'S AT  
EBEYE...SEND THEM TO ONE TREE ISLAND  
AT ONCE FOR A LOOK AROUND!!

YES SIR!!.. BUT  
THEY WON'T GET  
THERE FOR TWO  
HOURS, SIR!

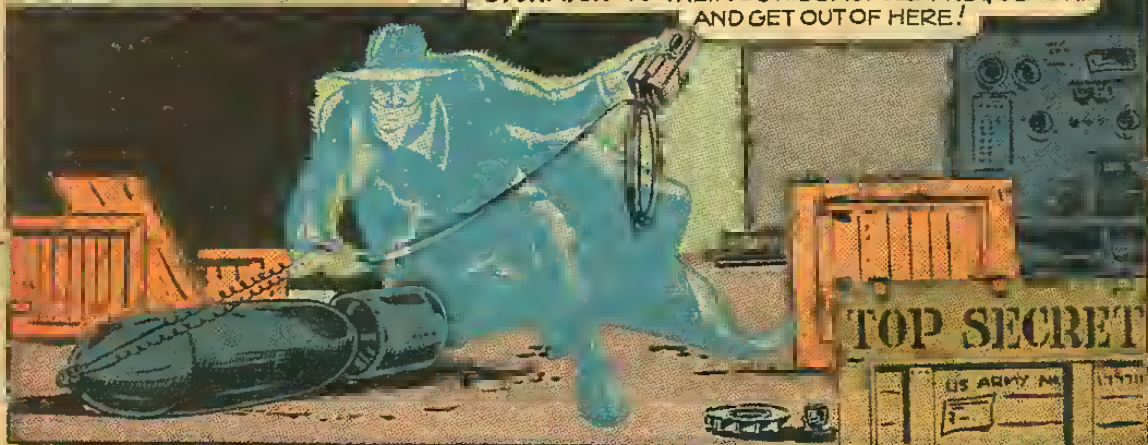


MEANWHILE... VANISHED AMERICAN  
NOT HERE, I THINK!

NO MATTER!! MUST  
FIND HIM ANYWAY!  
EXCELLENCY SAY  
SO!!



TELL YOUR EXCELLENCY YOU HAVE FOUND  
HIM.... AFTER YOU WAKE UP!



I'VE GOT TO WORK FAST!!... I'LL ADJUST THIS RADIO  
E TONATOR TO THEIR 38 MEGACYCLE FREQUENCY...  
AND GET OUT OF HERE!

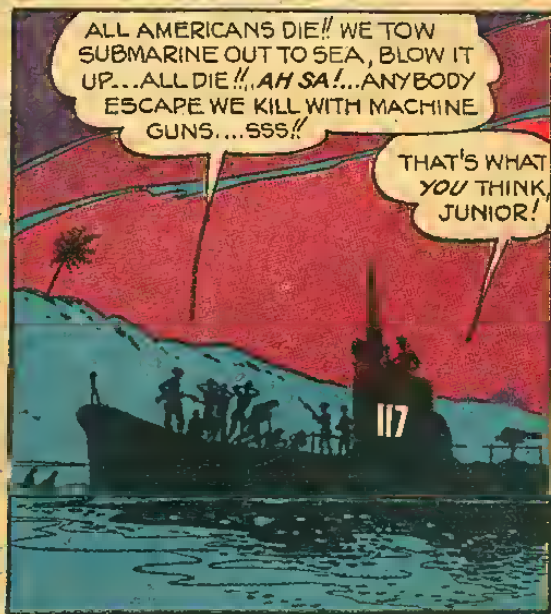


SEVERAL MINUTES LATER...

DON'T WORRY  
HARRY!! IT WON'T BE  
LONG NOW!!

HUH?... OH!!  
RIGHT!!

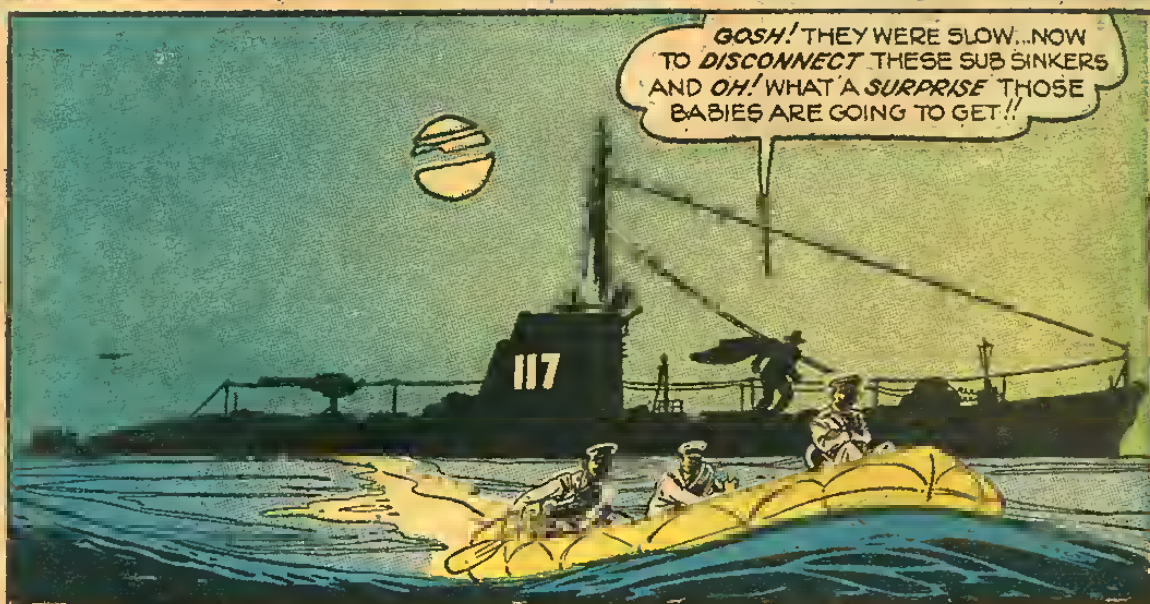
?



ALL AMERICANS DIE!! WE TOW  
SUBMARINE OUT TO SEA, BLOW IT  
UP... ALL DIE!!... AH SA!!... ANYBODY  
ESCAPE WE KILL WITH MACHINE  
GUNS.... SSS!!

THAT'S WHAT  
YOU THINK,  
JUNIOR!

AN HOUR LATER....TOWED MILES OUT A JAP CREW CONNECTS SEVERAL DEPTH CHARGES TO THE HULL.



TWENTY MINUTES LATER...IN THE JAP SUB....

ALL READY, CAPTAIN!/YOU PLEASE PLESS TELEGRAPH KEY, BLOW AMERICANS TO SMITHELEENS!!

I AM HONORED! 5555!



DIE!!!... DIE, AMERICAN PIGS!!!... BANZAI NIPPON!!





55555!!...SOMETHING GO WLONG  
MAYBE I GUESS?!...555!!

55555!!  
COULD BE!!



AS THE SMOKE FROM THE ATOMIC BOMB CLEARS, THE PBY'S ARRIVE AND SPOTTING THE REMAINING JAP SUBMARINE MAKE SHORT WORK OF IT BY TORPEDO....



MAH GOODNESS! AH NEVAH THO'T AH'D BE DROPPIN' BOMBS ON SUBMARINES TWO YEARS AFTER TH' WAH WAS OVAH!

ALABAM' IN THIS NAVY YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT'S GOIN' TO HAPPEN NEXT!



RELEASING THE CREW LAMONT AND HARRY ARE SAILED TO THE AMERICAN FLAG SHIP AND GREETED WARMLY BY THE ADMIRAL...

MR CRANSTON, IT'S A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU!

ADMIRAL... BELIEVE ME, I'M GLAD TO BE ABLE TO BE SEEN!



AND SO... LATE THE SAME AFTERNOON.....

FOR GALLANTRY AND HEROISM IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ENEMY, THE NAVY AWARDS TO LAMONT CRANSTON THIS MEDAL AND A SINCERE WELL DONE!

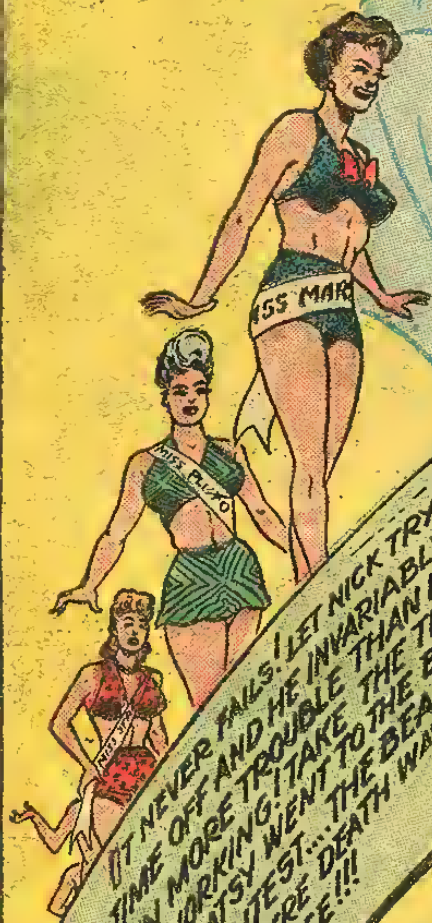


GAIN THE SHADOW PROVES THAT CRIME DOES NOT PAY!!!

# Nick Carter!

DEADLY  
PARADE!!

TUNE IN EACH WEEK ON NICK  
CARTER OVER MUTUAL NETWORK SUN-  
DAY EVENING 6:30 P.M. E.S.T. SPON-  
SORED BY OLD DUTCH CLEANSER



ELLIOTT-POWELL

IT NEVER FAILS! LET NICK TRY TO TAKE A LITTLE  
TIME OFF AND HE INVARIABLY WINDS UP  
IN MORE TROUBLE THAN IF HE WAS  
WORKING! I TAKE THE TIME HE AND  
PATSY WENT TO THE BEAUTY  
CONTEST... THE BEAUTY CONTEST  
WHERE DEATH WAS THE FINAL  
JUDGE!!!

YOU LUCKY STIFF! GOING TO A BEAUTY  
PARADE... I  
HATE YOU,  
I HATE  
YOU!

IS THAT WHERE YOU'RE  
DRAGGING ME NICK  
CARTER?



WHAT OF IT?..... I HAVEN'T COM-  
PLAINED ABOUT THESE **BLASTED**  
**ART SHOWS** YOU'VE  
A FINE THING, YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO  
SHOW ME UP!



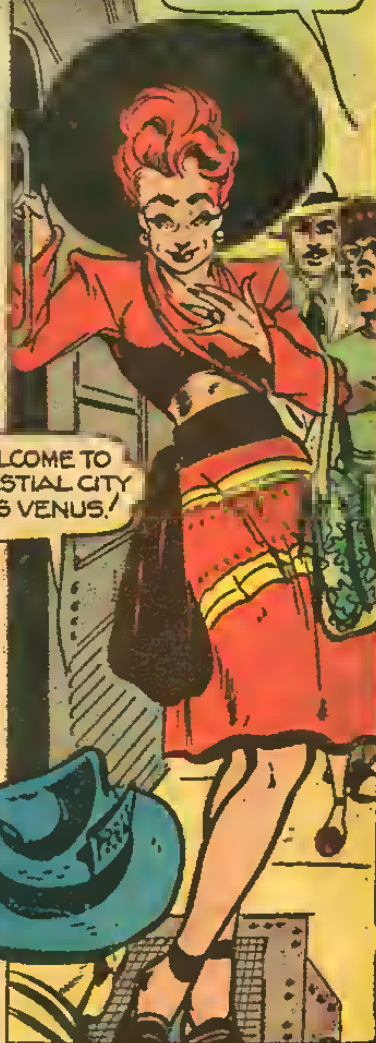
IN THE CITY DEDICATED  
TO THE SELECTION OF  
MISS UNIVERSE.....

OUR FAME HAS PRE-  
CEDED US!...A **BRASS**  
**BAND** NO LESS!



YOU KNOW VERY WELL THIS  
ISN'T FOR US, SILLY! IT'S  
FOR HER!!

WELCOME TO  
CELESTIAL CITY  
MISS VENUS!



OH THANK YOU! ALL  
THIS TROUBLE  
JUST FOR POOR  
OLD ME!

POOR LITTLE OLD ME!... GAH! WHY  
DO THEY PULL THAT  
**STUFF?**

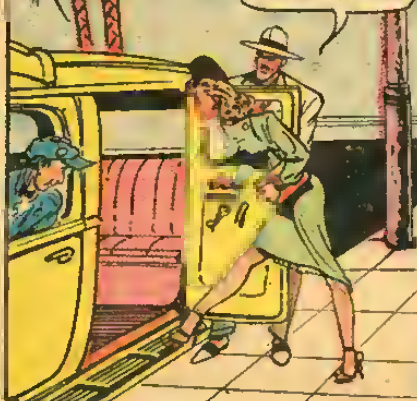
I THOUGHT  
SHE WAS VERY PRETTY.....  
AND HARD WORKING.... CARRYING  
HER **KNITTING**

WITH  
HER!



YOU DIDN'T FALL FOR THAT  
CON, NOW DID  
YOU?

RELAX PATSY,  
I THINK YOU'RE EVER  
SO MUCH **PRETTIER!**  
DRIVER, TO THE **PARADEX**  
PLEASE !!!

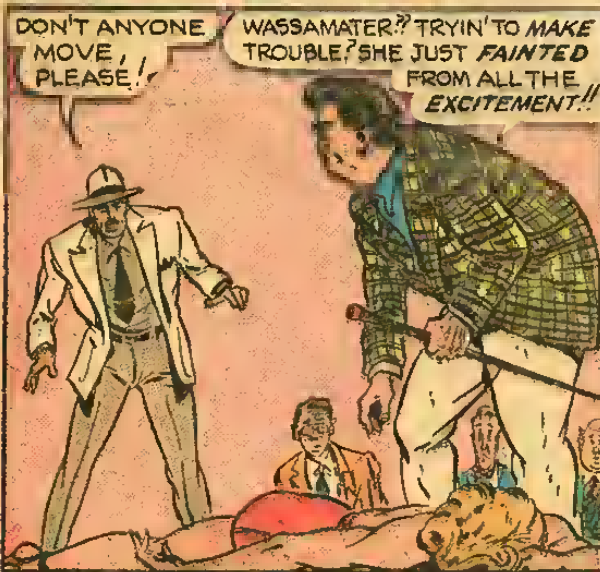
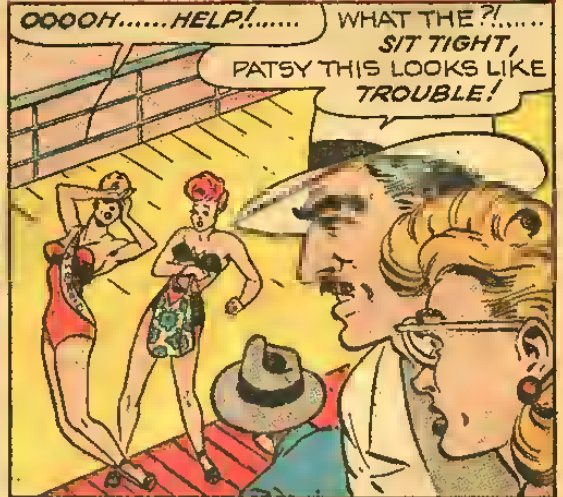
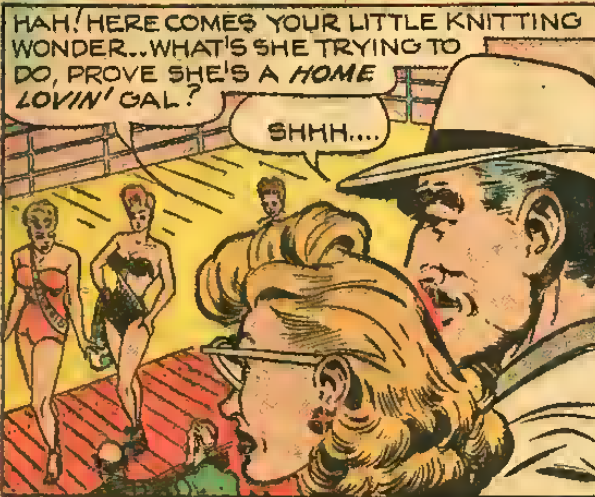
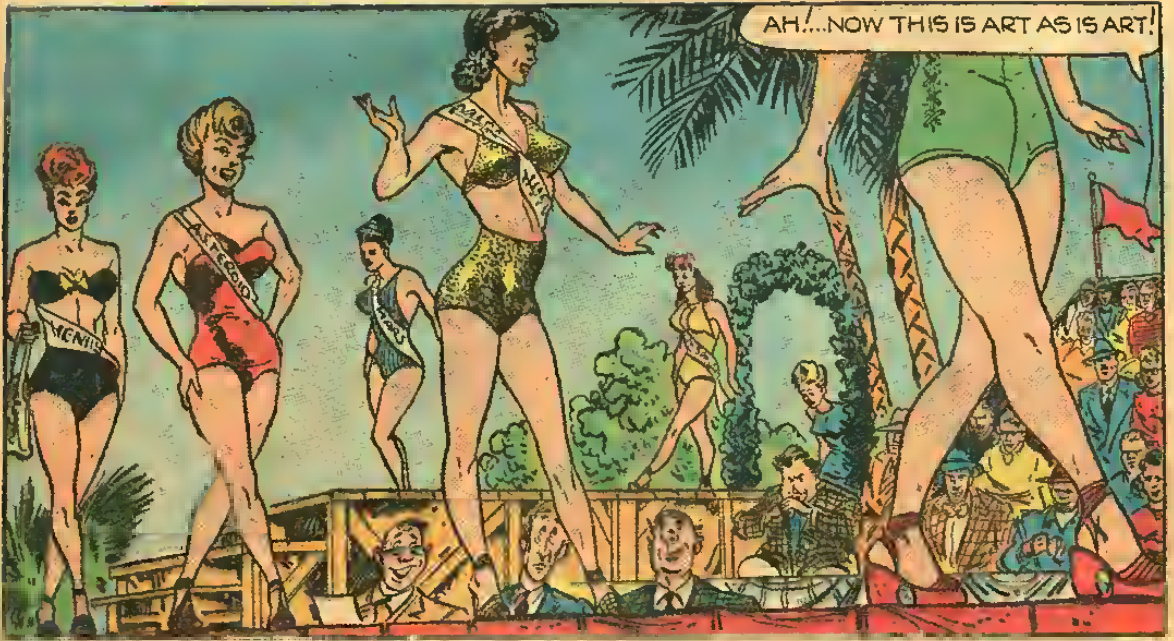


NOW THIS IS MY IDEA OF A  
VACATION.

OKAY, MISTER...  
HERE Y'ARE!!

I'M GLAD IT'S **SOME-**  
**BODY'S** IDEA  
OF FUN!





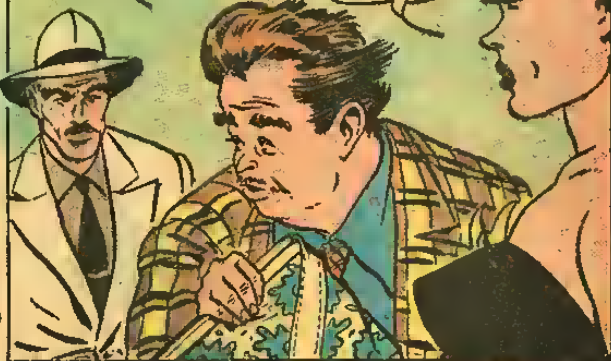
A **KNITTIN' NEEDLE**.... HOW COME?...YA FIGGER YA COULD GET RID OF ALL THE COMPETITION?

TAKE IT EASY, YOU. WHAT'S **YOUR NAME**?

YA MEAN YA DONT KNOW WHO I AM?...**ME**, THE ONE WHO **RUNS** THESE HERE SHINDIGS?

I'M **JOHNNY MACK**!

BETTER KNOWN AS **PRETTY BOY**!



YES INDEEDY!! GLAD TO BE OF ANY ASSISTANCE!...UMMM.....AND WHAT IS **YOUR NAME** MY **PRETTY** CONTESTANT?

ALL THREE OF YOU WERE IN **FULL VIEW**, YOU **COULDN'T** BE IMPLICATED! ONE OF YOU GO CALL THE **POLICE**!

NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS AND I'M NOT!

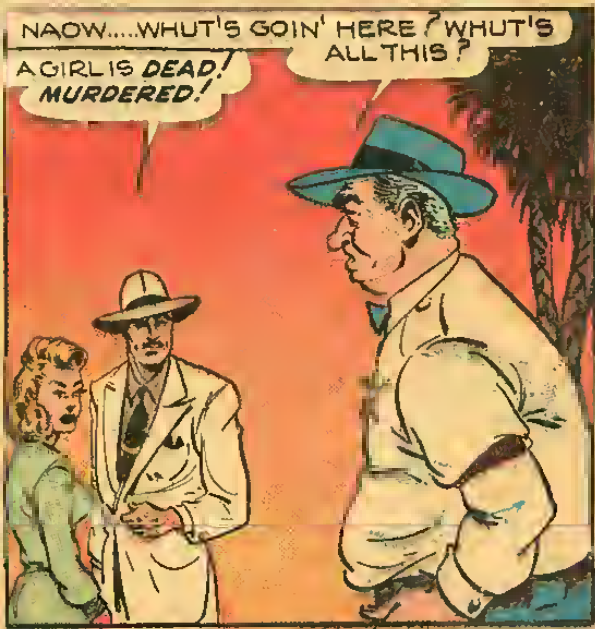


GET SOMETHING TO COVER HER WITH!

ROGER! WILL DO!



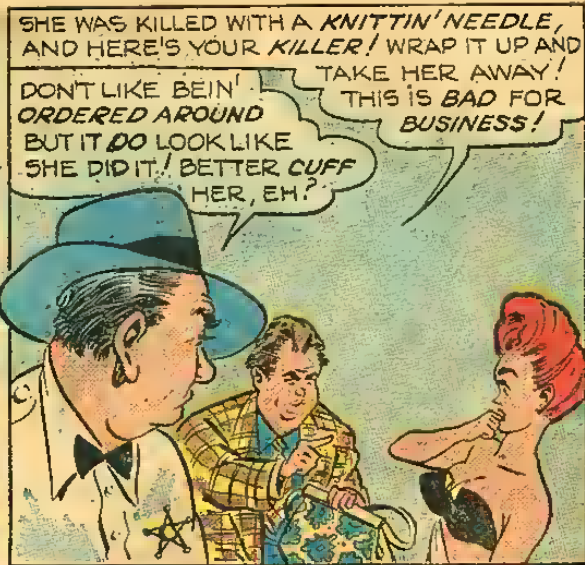
NAOW....WHUT'S GOIN' HERE? WHUT'S ALL THIS?  
A GIRL IS **DEAD!**  
**MURDERED!**





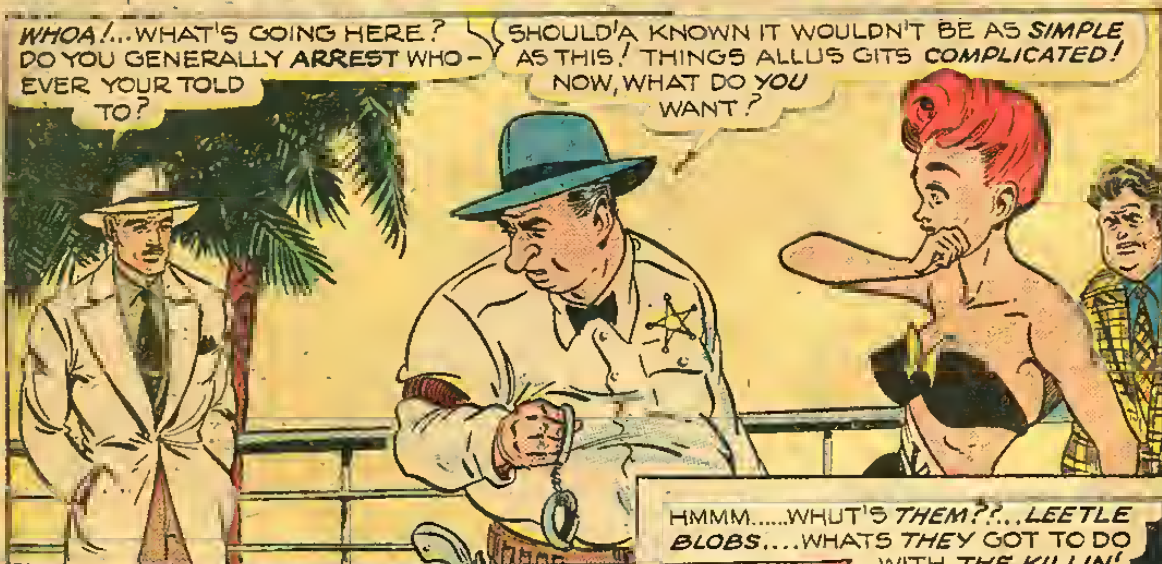
MURDER?! WHY WE H'AIN'T HAD A KILLIN' IN THIRTY ODD YEARS!!

WELL YA GOT ONE NOW, FAT STUFF!!



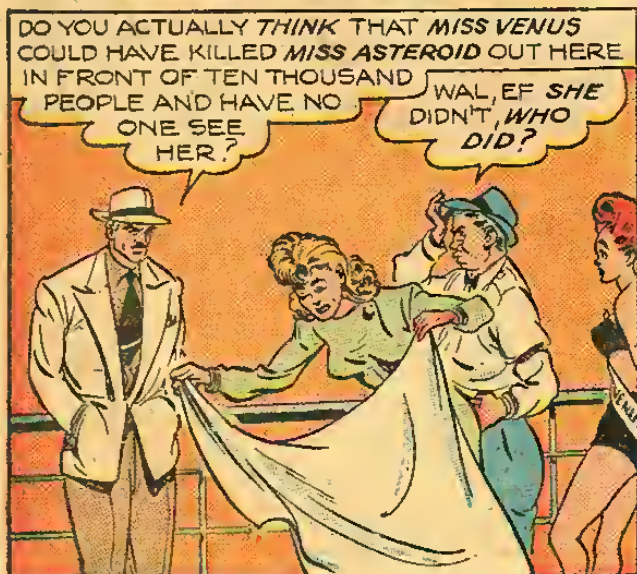
SHE WAS KILLED WITH A KNITTIN' NEEDLE, AND HERE'S YOUR KILLER! WRAP IT UP AND TAKE HER AWAY! THIS IS BAD FOR BUSINESS!

DON'T LIKE BEIN' ORDERED AROUND BUT IT DO LOOK LIKE SHE DID IT! BETTER CUFF HER, EH?



WHOA!...WHAT'S GOING HERE? DO YOU GENERALLY ARREST WHO-EVER YOUR TOLD TO?

SHOULD'A KNOWN IT WOULDN'T BE AS SIMPLE AS THIS! THINGS ALLUS GITS COMPLICATED! NOW, WHAT DO YOU WANT?



DO YOU ACTUALLY THINK THAT MISS VENUS COULD HAVE KILLED MISS ASTEROID OUT HERE IN FRONT OF TEN THOUSAND PEOPLE AND HAVE NO ONE SEE HER?

WAL, EF SHE DIDN'T, WHO DID?



HMMM.....WHUT'S THEM??...LEETLE BLOBS....WHATS THEY GOT TO DO WITH THE KILLIN' OF THIS GAL?

NOTHING EXCEPT THAT THEY SHOW US WHO THE KILLER IS!!!

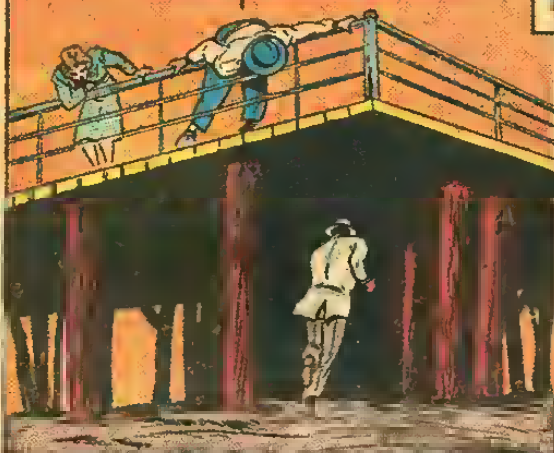
YOU CAN USE YOUR CUFFS NOW, BUT ON THE *REAL MURDERER*! THE *ONLY ONE* WHO COULD HAVE KILLED WITH *TWENTY THOUSAND EYES* ON HIM! PRETTY BOY! WAL! I'LL BE..... SORRY TO DO THIS. BUT IF YOU SAY SO..... MACK!!



NICK... *BE CAREFUL!!*



WELL, GO ON!!! GO CHASE *ME?!!!* 'PEARS HIM TOO!!..... TO 'ME, IT'S A *MITE RISKY* RUNNIN' IN THERE AFTER A *KILLER!!*



UNDER THE BOARDWALK, FLICKERING SHADOWS DENY THE SUN....

*BLAST IT!!* THIS PLACE IS A *LABYRINTH!...*



BEAT IT.....OR TAKE IT!!



TRY IT.....I'M NO *HELPLESS GIRL!...*





SEVERAL MINUTES LATER BACK ON THE BOARDWALK.....

I BIN INVESTIGATIN' MR CARTER... PRETTY BOY  
DON'T EVEN KNOW THIS DEAD GAL!  
NEVER MET HER BEFORE! WHY'D  
HE KILL HER?

KNOW PRETTY BOY  
DON'T YOU?

THIS IS  
JUST A GUESS,  
BUT MISS VENUS YOU  
PRETTY BOY  
YOU?

YOU SURE DO! I CAME  
DOWN HERE TO  
SHOW HIM UP!!  
HE'S A  
CROOK!

**THERE'S YOUR  
MOTIVE,  
SHERIFF!**

I DON'T GET IT. I CAN SEE WHY HE'D KILL *MISS VENUS*, BUT WHY *MISS ASTEROID*? HE THOUGHT HE

MISS  
TERROROID? HE THOUGHT HE  
WAS KILLING MISS  
VENUS! FROM THE BACK  
THEY LOOK ALIKE! ONCE THE  
WRONG GIRL WAS DEAD, HE  
TRIED TO BLAME IT ON MISS  
VENUS AND HER  
KNITTING NEEDLE!

HOW'D HE DO IT RIGHT OUT IN FRONT OF ALL  
THESE PEOPLE?

**WATCH!**

WHY.....IT'S GOT A **DAGGER** THAT **SHOOTS OUT OF THE**  
**BOTTOM OF THE CANE!** HE  
JUST **POINTED HIS CANE AT**  
HER.....AND.....

UGH

JUST LIKE THEM  
**THINGS THE GARBAGE**  
**MEN USE!** COME ON

JUST LIKE THEM  
THINGS THE GARBAGE  
MEN USE. COME ON  
7. PRETTY BOY!

LET'S GO, PATSY..  
THIS RELAXATION IS  
TOO MUCH FOR  
ME!

IMAGINE THE  
BALLOON IS A  
SOFT BACK!

Balloons  
10¢

# INNER CIRCLE



"Dear Walt;

Aug 5 1948

Can you take me to Bert's with you on Sat. Webster's car is broken and won't run. The man at Herman's repair shop stayed and worked again. He was at work for two days. Results nil. I won't see you now until Fri. Hope Ed's better.

Charley."

Nick Carter's voice stopped as he came to the end of the letter which he had just read to the members of the Inner Circle. The members strained forward, trying to make sense out of it. Nick had said that there was a message concealed in it. Somehow it did not sound like the average cryptogram.

"The clue to the solution," Nick said, "is right in the letter. Whoever figured the thing out was clever. But what a headache the whole thing was." He whistled. "I strained over the thing for a whole day, and then Chick went to work on it. It was he who finally figured it out. But by then we had come to know it for the red herring it really was. But until we found out that it was just mis-direction, I thought we'd blow our tops!"

Here was the situation.

## "MURDER MOST FOUL!"

Nick cleared his throat and had a sip of water. Then he said, "James B. Abernathy a noted philatelist was dead. He had been stabbed and had fallen across his desk with a magnifying lens right in his hand. It seemed clear that he had been examining a stamp. The murderer, and we were sure he was the murderer right from the start, was a man named Charles Harren. He had the gall to do the killing and steal what he was after—and then stay put.

"He figured and rightly, I am sure, since it almost defeated us, that if he could conceal his loot, without ever leaving the murder room,

we would have difficulty in pinning a motive on him. Without a clear motive, no D.A. would take the risk of trying a man for a killing. Harren thought he was in an impregnable position.

"Picture the room. It was simply decorated and in good taste. There was the desk over which the dead man had sprawled. To one side there was a buffet of old oak. In it were four or five liquor bottles, good, old brandy. There were glasses, a pitcher of water, some chairs and that's about all.

"If the killer had stolen the stamp we thought he had, a priceless stamp, the four-penny crimson, which was almost as rare as the ha'penny Black, the stamp must be hidden in the room somewhere."

"Believe me, we tore that room apart. We examined everything there was to examine, including Harren's person. It was then we found the cryptic note I read to you earlier.

"We were positive there was something phony about the letter. We put it to every test for invisible ink that we knew, we had expert de-coders work on it. The very simplicity of the thing almost baffled us. It was Chick, as I say, who finally figured it out. But in the meantime the search of the room went on.

"We had an eyewitness, the butler of the dead man, who swore that Harren was in the room and had not left. Not until after Harren called out that a crook had come in and killed Abernathy."

"I don't think that it was in Harren's plan to have an impossible situation. He couldn't have known about the photo-electric eyes that Abernathy had controlling the windows. Not knowing about these burglar alarms, he couldn't know that it was impossible for anyone to go in or out of the windows without setting off an alarm. But even after he heard

about that end of it, he was still sitting pretty for we couldn't very well drag him into court and say he had killed Abernathy for a stamp, but we just couldn't find it."

Nick had another drink of water. This was dry work.

"So there we have the killer, watching with us with a sly sneer on his face, as we tested that room, searched it, tore it apart, turned it upside-down without finding hide nor hair of the missing and very valuable stamp."

Beef asked, "Mr. Carter, what about that code message? You say it was a code message. If it was, how come it didn't have anything to do with the case?"

"We stubbed our toes on that. You see, what we are apt to forget in a murder case, is that the murderer may well be a normal sort of bloke who has hobbies. If we hadn't found the letter when we did, Harren would probably have explained that it was just part of his hobby. But when he found that it was throwing dust in our eyes, he sat tight and grinned a sly subtle grin."

### "THE FIFTH LETTER . . ."

"What Chick found out," Nick's voice was proud every time he mentioned his foster son, "was that the answer was in the letter. The secret is in the date. The fifth, the letter said. Chick finally tumbled to that and copied off every fifth letter, starting with the salutation. Then he copied off the first letter in every five."

(To reader. If you go back to the letter at the beginning of the story and do what Chick did you will find the message.)

Nick and the members chuckled when Nick told them what the message was. Nick said, "You see, the killer was a cryptologist when he was not being a murderer and he had been working on this letter which was a big puzzle during the late war. The note as you now know refers to the Thames . . . well . . . since the missing stamp was an English one, we went down another blind alley thinking that the solution to the whole thing might be a re-interpretation of the decoded message. As it

turned out, we were wrong on that too, the code had not a single blessed thing to do with the case. It just cost a lot of time we could ill afford."

Beef interrupted again, "But where was the stamp? How did you find it?"

"Like Poe's Purloined letter it was the triumph of the obvious. It was so out in the open that we could not see it. If it hadn't been for one of the homicide men on the case getting thirsty, we would still be licked by the sly sneer on the killer's face.

"The detective picked up one of the liquor bottles and taking a drink said, 'My gosh, you don't think he might have put the stamp into one of the bottles, do you?'

"I said no, irritably for obviously any liquid would destroy the value of the stamp. If the ink was damaged in any way so would the value."

### "CRYPTIC CACHE!"

"He put the bottle down and then the case was solved for I had been watching the killer out of the corner of my eye. He sighed a little sigh of relief as the detective put the bottle back.

"That did it. I grabbed the bottle and held it up to the light. I looked at the whole blasted bottle and still I didn't see the thing that was there so obviously!

"I looked over all the bottles and still didn't see it. Finally my brain went into gear.

"I picked up the first bottle and there it was! It was only after looking at all of them that I could see it. It was cute, it was clever, fiendishly clever! Every bottle of liquor sold in the States has a tax stamp on it!

"That was the secret! After he killed Abernathy he didn't have a second to waste, he dabbed a bit of glue on the stolen stamp and pasted it right out in the open on top of the excise stamp on the bottle!"

Nick sighed and grinned at the members. "The whole case was a perfect example of 'eyes, but they see not' . . . He came so close to getting away with it, but then, murder WILL out!"

# YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT, BUT.

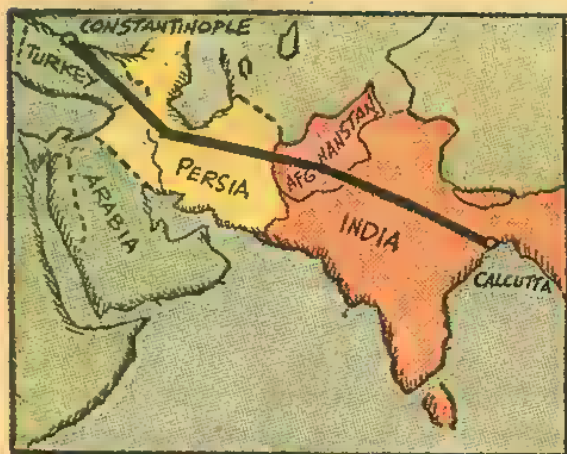
**MENSEN ERNST** WAS THE  
GREATEST FOOT RACER  
IN HISTORY



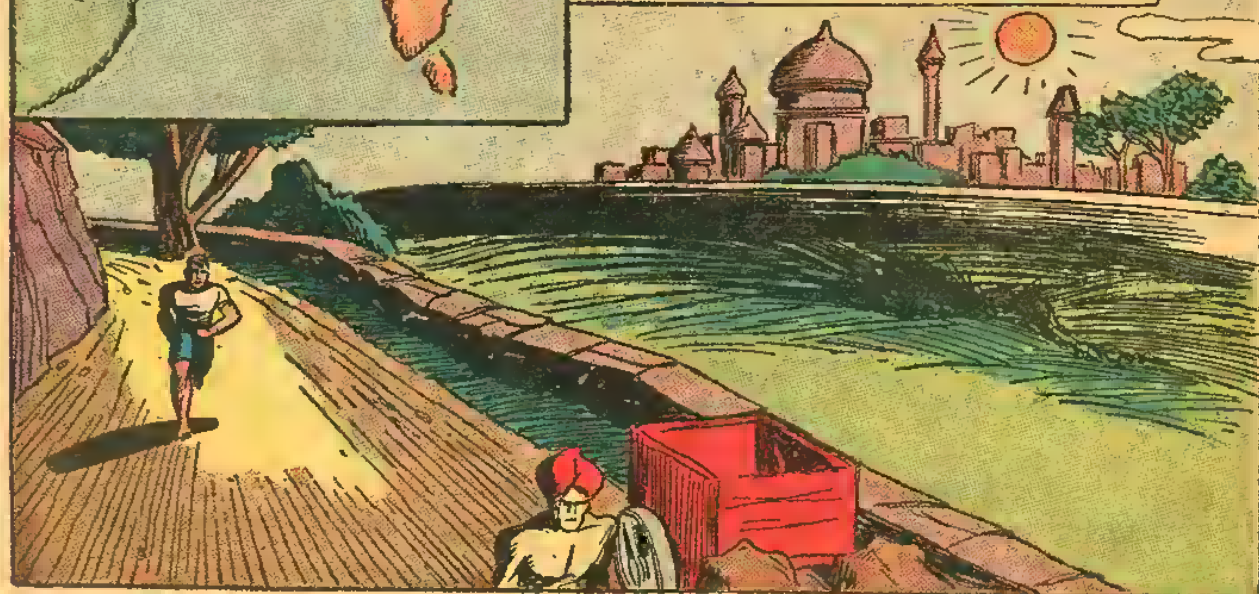
MENSEN ERNST,  
OF NORWAY,  
WAS THE  
GREATEST  
RUNNER  
OF ALL  
TIME



HE RAN FROM PARIS TO MOSCOW  
IN TWO WEEKS, SWIMMING  
13 BIG RIVERS AND AVERAGING  
125 MILES A DAY



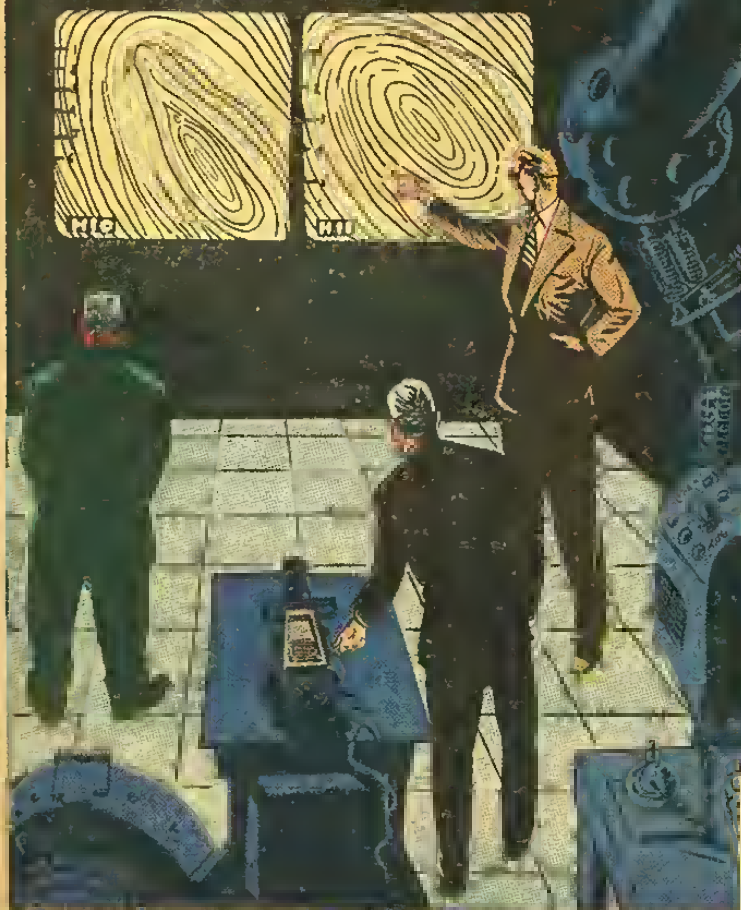
HIS GREATEST FEAT WAS A RACE  
FROM CONSTANTINOPLE TO CALCUTTA  
AND BACK, A DISTANCE OF 5,625  
MILES. ERNST AVERAGED 95 MILES  
FOR 59 DAYS, CROSSING RIVERS,  
DESERTS AND MOUNTAINS TO SET  
A RECORD NEVER SINCE  
EQUALLED!



# Doc Savage

## AND THE DISAPPEARING DIAMOND

WITH THE AID OF SUPERSCIENCE DOC SAVAGE OUTWITS DR. SIX, HEAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL GEM STEALING RING...AND SHOWS YOU SOME OF THE TRICKS OF THE PHONY MEDIUMS!



THE STORY OPENS ONE SPRING DAY WHEN **DOC SAVAGE** STOPS TO TIE HIS SHOE DURING A WALK ALONG LEXINGTON AVENUE...



RIGHT-O!! HERE Y'ARE... OOPS! MY BRIEF CASE! HERE!! I'VE GOT IT!!





## DR. VICTOR SIX SPIRUALIST MEDIUM

HMM!... DR. SIX, EH?... THIS PHOTO... I'VE SEEN... OF COURSE!! IT'S OLD TREVOR DUNHAM'S PICTURE! HE'S BEEN DEAD FOR TWO YEARS... HMM!!... WONDER IF HIS WIDOW STILL OWNS THE BIG DURBAR DIAMOND.....



MAYBE THESE FINGERPRINTS WILL GIVE US A CLUE... THERE'S CERTAINLY ENOUGH OF 'EM!... HERE, MONK, BLOW THEM UP!

NOTHING MUCH BUT ROUTINE STUFF ABOUT THE DIAMOND IN THE FILES, DOC!



CAREFULLY PLACING THE PHOTOGRAPH IN HIS POCKET, DOC RETURNS TO HIS LABORATORY...

HAM, GET ME THE FILES ON TREVOR DUNHAM, AND THE DURBAR DIAMOND... I THINK THERE IS SOMETHING IN THE WIND!

OH!...HELLO, DOC! SURE!... RIGHT AWAY!



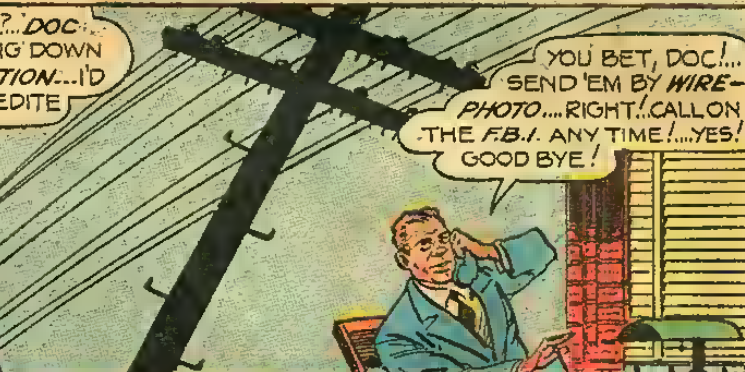
RIGHT!



HELLO?...YES!...HELLO, DIRECTOR?...**DOC SAVAGE**...YES!...LISTEN! I'M SENDING DOWN SOME PRINTS FOR IDENTIFICATION...I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD EXPEDITE THE SEARCH!



YOU BET, DOC!... SEND 'EM BY WIRE-PHOTO...RIGHT! CALL ON THE F.B.I. ANY TIME!...YES! GOOD BYE!



I'M GOING TO SEE **MRS. DUNHAM** OUT ON LONG ISLAND....**MONK**, I WANT YOU TO TAIL A **DOCTOR SIX**.... HIS OFFICE IS IN THE CHAMMIM BUILDING... AND FIND OUT WHERE HE LIVES!

RIGHT!...I'M ON MY WAY!



FORTY MINUTES LATER....



PRETTY BIG PLACE!...QUITE SECLUDED TOO!

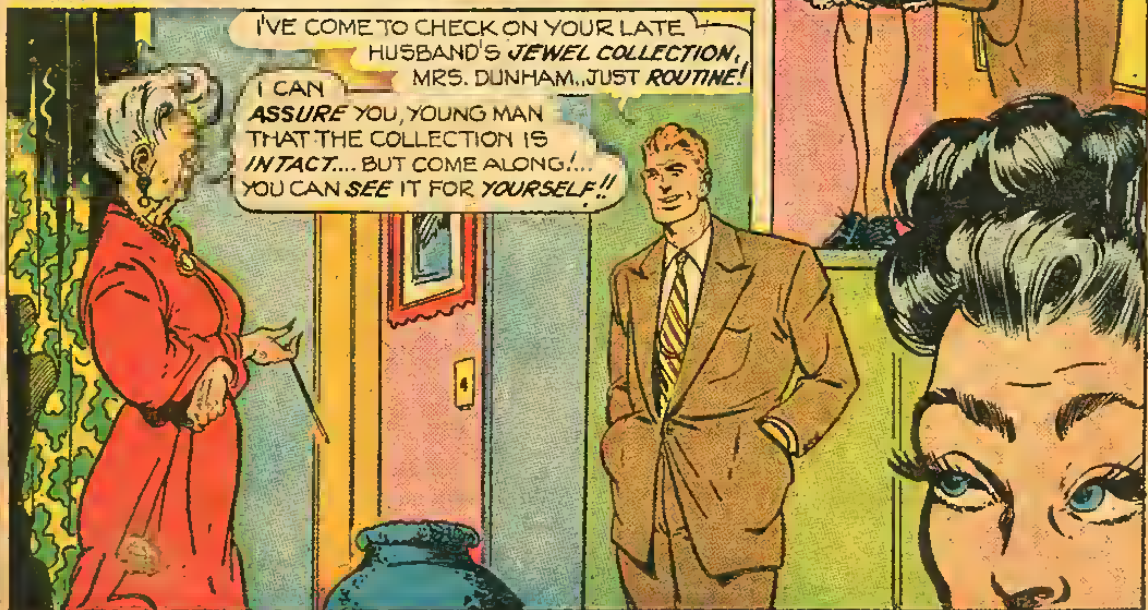
GOOD AFTERNOON.... I'M **MR. SIMPSON**, FROM THE INSURANCE COMPANY....I'D LIKE TO SEE **MRS. DUNHAM**!

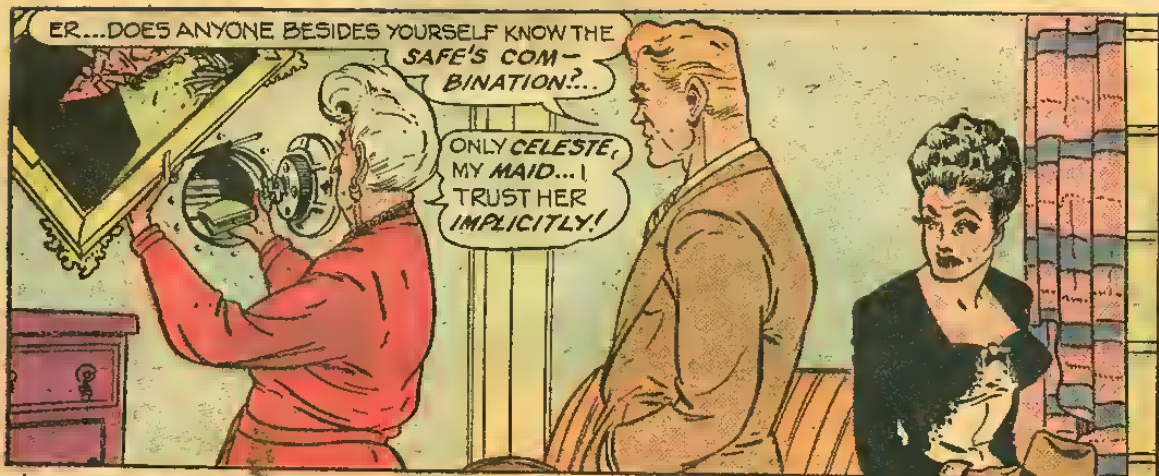
PLEASE COME IN... I'LL TELL **MRS. DUNHAM**, YOU'RE HERE!



I'VE COME TO CHECK ON YOUR LATE HUSBAND'S **JEWEL COLLECTION**, **MRS. DUNHAM**...JUST ROUTINE!

I CAN ASSURE YOU, YOUNG MAN THAT THE COLLECTION IS **INTACT**.... BUT COME ALONG!... YOU CAN SEE IT FOR YOURSELF!!





ER...DOES ANYONE BESIDES YOURSELF KNOW THE

SAFE'S COM-  
BINATION?...

ONLY CELESTE,  
MY MAID... I  
TRUST HER  
IMPLICITLY!

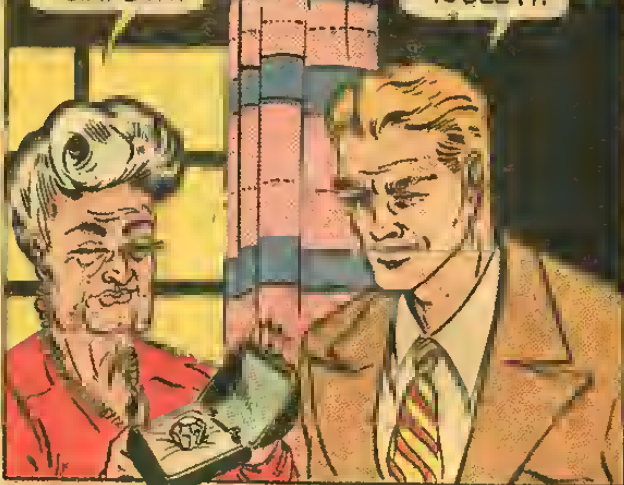
TO-MORROW NIGHT, DR. SIX IS HOLDING A  
SPECIAL SEANCE AND MY HUSBAND IS COM-  
ING BACK FROM THE SPIRIT WORLD! HE SAYS  
I HAVE TO TAKE A MATERIAL TOKEN TO  
ESTABLISH CONTACT, SO I'M TAKING THE  
DURBAR DIAMOND! TREVOR TREASURED  
IT SO...

YOU DON'T SAY!



...HERE WE ARE!... THE  
DURBAR DIAMOND, MR  
SIMPSON!

IT'S BREATH-TAKING!...  
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED  
TO SEE IT!



HELLO?...HELLO!...VICTOR?!... LISTEN! SHE HAD A VISIT  
FROM AN INSURANCE INSPECTOR AND SHE TOLD HIM  
SHE WAS BRINGING THE DIAMOND!...YES!... ISN'T IT  
PERFECT?...ALLRIGHT!...YES!...GOODBYE!!

WELL EVERYTHING SEEMS IN ORDER, MRS.  
I'M VERY CAREFUL! DUNHAM! THANK YOU  
COME! I'LL SEE YOU  
TO THE DOOR!

DUNHAM! THANK YOU  
AND GOODBYE!



LATER... BACK IN THE CITY.....

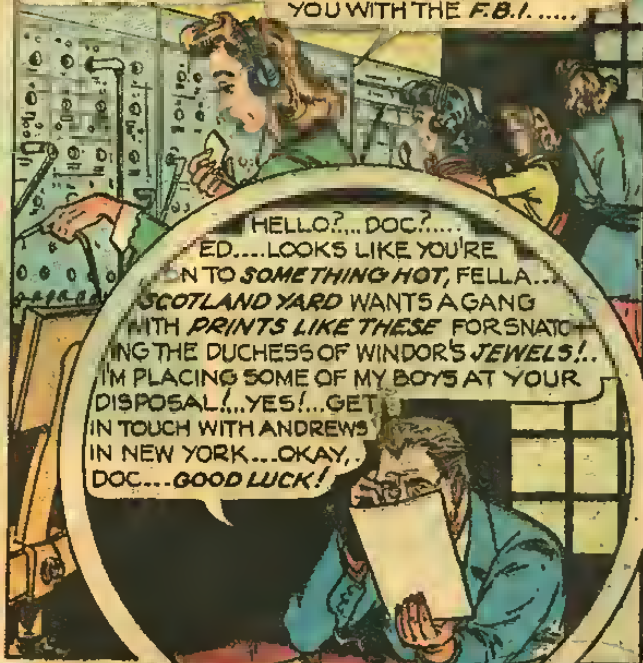
DOC!!... WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?... THE 'WASHINGTON OPERATOR'S BEEN CALLING EVERY FIVE MINUTES FOR THE LAST HOUR!... IT MUST BE PRETTY URGENT!

OKAY, HAM... I'LL CALL HER RIGHT AWAY....



ONE MOMENT PLEASE, MR SAVAGE... I'LL CONNECT YOU WITH THE F.B.I. ....

HELLO?... DOC?...  
ED.... LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE  
IN TO SOMETHING HOT, FELLA...  
SCOTLAND YARD WANTS A GANG  
WITH PRINTS LIKE THESE FOR SNATCHING THE DUCHESS OF WINDOR'S JEWELS!...  
I'M PLACING SOME OF MY BOYS AT YOUR DISPOSAL!... YES!... GET IN TOUCH WITH ANDREWS IN NEW YORK... OKAY, DOC... GOOD LUCK!



THERE!... NOW WHAT'D YOU FIND OUT, MONK?

HE LIVES IN A BROWNSTONE ON EAST FIFTY-SEVENTH.... I CASED THE JOINT 'N' NOBODY'S THERE BUT A BUTLER WHO LOOKS LIKE AN EX-PUG!



GOOD!!... THEN WE'RE OFF TO A SEANCE TO-MORROW NIGHT... AND WE'RE GOING DRESSED AS HINDUS!

HUH?

MY! MY!... HAND ME DOWN MY TURBAN, JEEVES!



THE NEXT NIGHT.....



YEAH, DOC SIX LIVES HERE... SO WHAT?!

TELL THE ESTEEMED DOCTOR THAT I GURN PAT A PATA OF BOMBAY AND MY FRIENDS, THE MAHATMA AND THE LITTLE MUFTI, WOULD CONVERSE WITH HIM ON MATTERS OF THE SPIRITS!!...



AH!!...COME IN!! COME IN, MY DEAR GURN PAT A PATA! IT IS A PLEASURE TO MEET SO GREAT A SPIRITUALIST!!...MAY I PRESENT MY OTHER GUESTS, MRS DUNHAM AND MISS MONTOUSE!



AH!! BUT LET US NOT DALLY!!...PLEASE, THIS WAY!!...WE SHALL SIT AROUND THE TABLE EACH HOLDING THE HAND OF THE PERSON NEXT TO HIM...ALL THE LIGHTS WILL BE TURNED OFF EXCEPT THAT OVER THE TABLE. THE SPIRITS PREFER DARKNESS!!...



...AND NOW!!...SILENCE!! HOLD MY HAND, MRS. DUNHAM!!...QUIET, EVERYONE!!

MY GRACIOUS IT'S DARK!!...THE CENTER LIGHT DOESN'T DO ANY GOOD AT ALL!!



FOLLOWING IS WHAT DOC SAVAGE SAW THROUGH HIS INFRA-RED RAY SNOOPERSCOPE...BUT LET THE READER KEEP IN MIND THAT THE OTHERS IN THE ROOM SAW NOTHING BECAUSE OF THE ROOM'S ALMOST TOTAL DARKNESS.



**S**UDDENLY THE CENTER LIGHT GOE OUT.....  
 FOCUSING BENEATH THE TABLE DOC SEES DR. SIX  
 PRESS A CONCEALED LIGHT SWITCH WITH HIS FOOT.

**A**ND JUST BEFORE THE MAIN LIGHTS GO ON, DOC  
 SEES TWO HANDS LAY DOWN THE DURBAR GEM...



**AH! THE LIGHTS!** I'M VERY SORRY, MRS. DUNHAM, BUT THE SPELL WAS BROKEN WHEN THE CENTER LIGHT... **HEY** WHAT'RE YOU UP TO?!

WHAT IN...?!

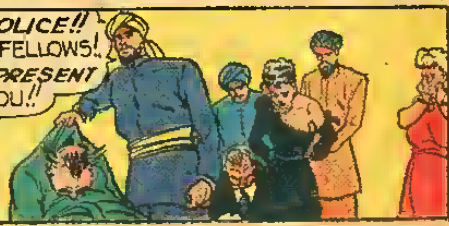
YOU'LL DARN SOON FIND OUT...  
**GRAB 'EM, BOYS!**

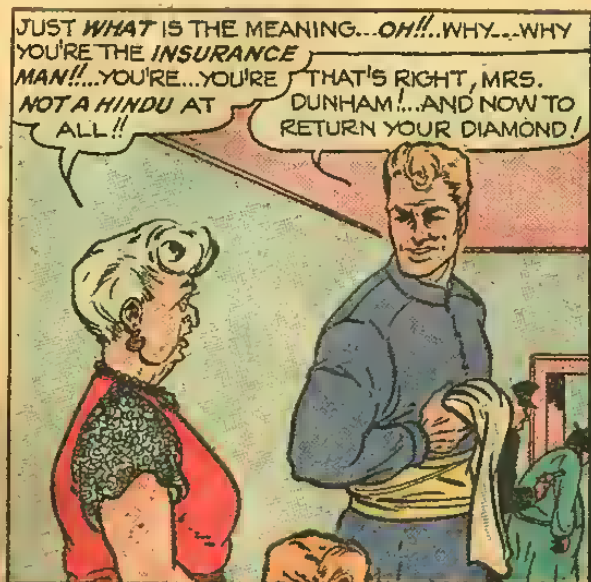


**CLEVER, DOCTOR, CLEVER!**...  
 YOU ALMOST GOT AWAY  
 WITH IT!...ALMOST...  
 BUT NOT QUITE!



**AH! THE POLICE!!**  
 WELCOME, FELLOWS!  
 HERE'S A **PRESENT**  
 FOR YOU!!





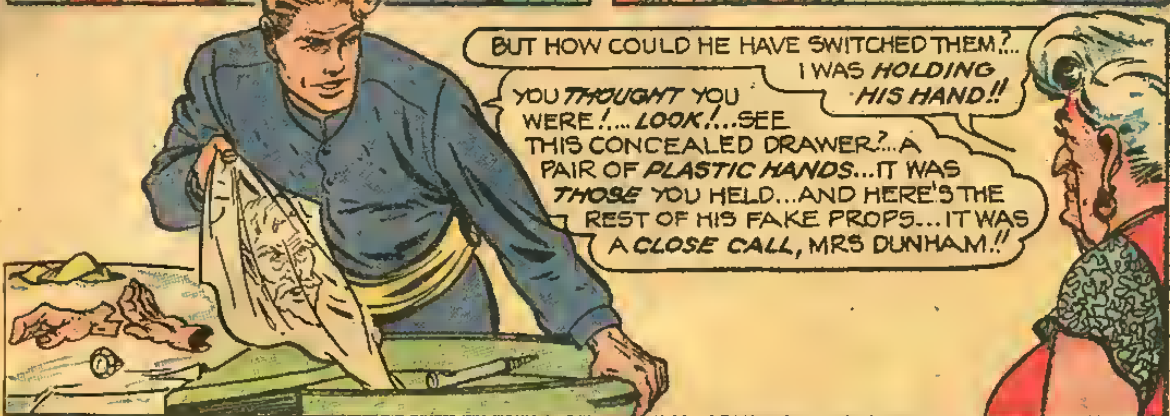
JUST WHAT IS THE MEANING...OH!!!WHY...WHY YOU'RE THE **INSURANCE MAN!!!**...YOU'RE...YOU'RE **NOT A HINDU AT ALL!!**

THAT'S RIGHT, MRS. DUNHAM!...AND NOW TO RETURN YOUR DIAMOND!



BUT!...BUT I HAVE IT RIGHT HERE!

OH NO!!! WHAT YOU HAVE THERE IS A **FAKE!!!**...THE REAL ONE IS IN THAT TABLE!!



BUT HOW COULD HE HAVE SWITCHED THEM?... I WAS **HOLDING HIS HAND!!**

YOU **THOUGHT** YOU WERE!...**LOOK!...SEE** THIS CONCEALED DRAWER?...A PAIR OF **PLASTIC HANDS...**IT WAS **THOSE** YOU HELD...AND HERE'S THE REST OF HIS **FAKE PROPS...**IT WAS A **CLOSE CALL**, MRS DUNHAM!!



...AND SO...THE NEXT DAY

**BOY!!!...WHAT A GADGET!... YOU CAN SEE EVERYTHING AS CLEAR AS DAYLIGHT!!**

YEP!...AND IT SURE PUT **DR. SIX** AND HIS **CO-HORTS** OUT OF CIRCULATION FOR AWHILE!!



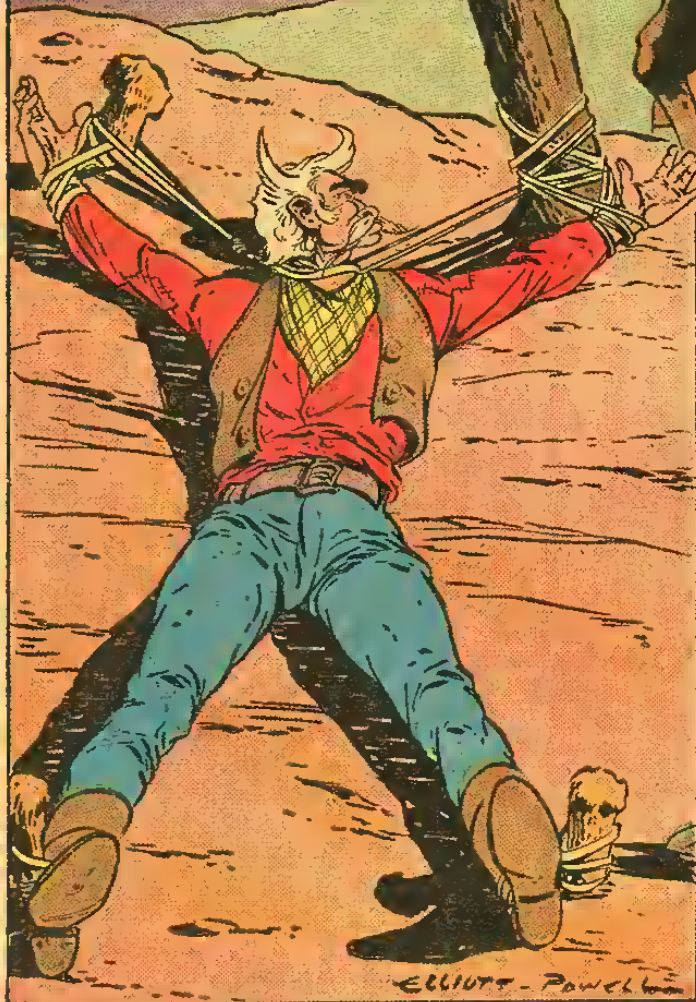
AH, YES, BUT WHEN I THINK OF THAT BEAUTIFUL **CELESTE!** AHHHHH!!

AW FOR...!!!...THERE HE GOES AGAIN!! CAN'T YOU **EVER** KEEP YOUR MIND ON YOUR **WORK**, YA BIG BOOB?!...!

# PARSON PETE

Sun Kissed  
Death...

IN LATER DAYS PEOPLE NEVER THOUGHT OF PARSON PETE EXCEPT WITH HIS SIDE KICK, STAKE OUT SAM, ALWAYS AT HIS SIDE! FEW KNOW THE STORY OF HOW THEY CAME TO JOIN FORCES! THIS IS THAT STORY.....



I'LL MOSEY ALONG BACK THIS WAY ALONG 'BOUT SUNDOWN, SAM...BY THEN YE SHOULD BE READY TUH TELL ME WHUT I WANNA KNOW!

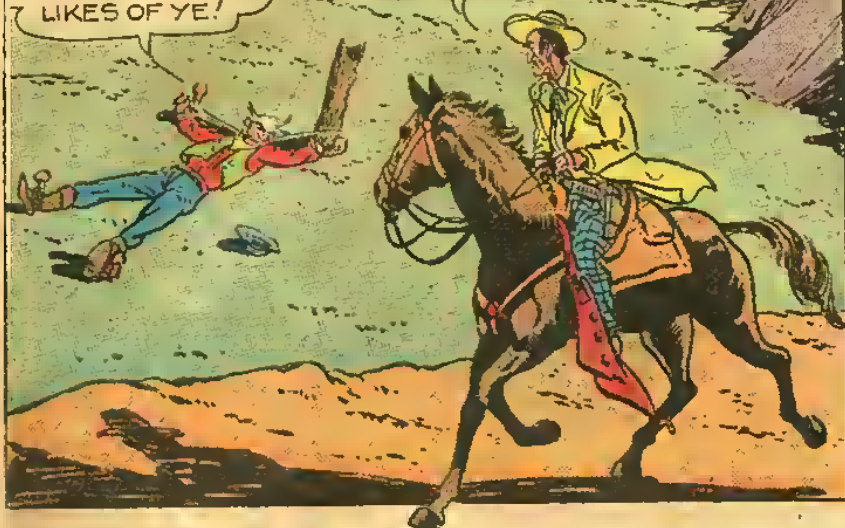
YA DIRTY TORTURIN' SPAL-PEEN, I'LL DIE AFORE I TELL YE!



ELLIOTT - POWELL

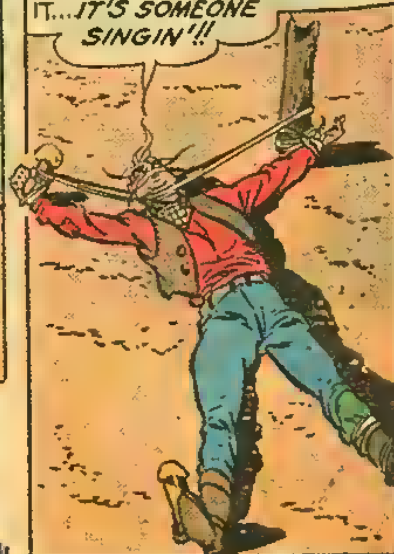
WE'LL SEE HOW YE FEEL ABOUT IT, 'LONG 'BOUT WHEN THET *WET*  
*RAWHIDE* 'ROUND YER NECK STARTS TUH *DRY OUT* 'N' STARTS  
STRETCHIN' TILL YE *STRANGLE*!

BAD CESS TUH TH'  
7 LIKES OF YE!



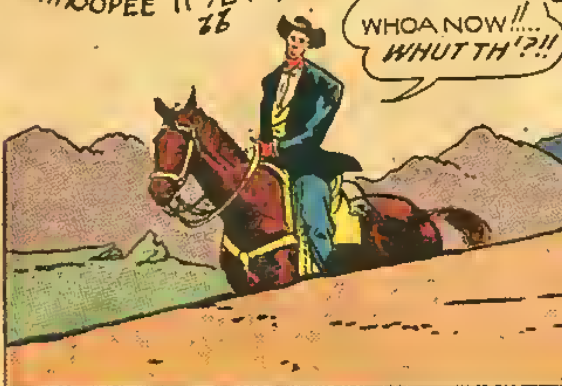
TORTURING HOURS PASS UNDER  
THE BAKING SUN AND THE  
RAWHIDE DRAWS TIGHTER  
AND TIGHTER AS IT DRIES....

G...GIVE ME STRENGTH TUH  
KEEP ME YAMMERIN' MOUTH  
SHUT WHEN HE RIDES BACK!  
T...THAT SOUND...?W..WHUT?  
IT...IT'S SOMEONE  
SINGIN'!!



66WHOOPEE TI YE YO, GIT ALONG LITTLE DOGIES FER.....66

WHOA NOW!!!  
WHUT TH'??!



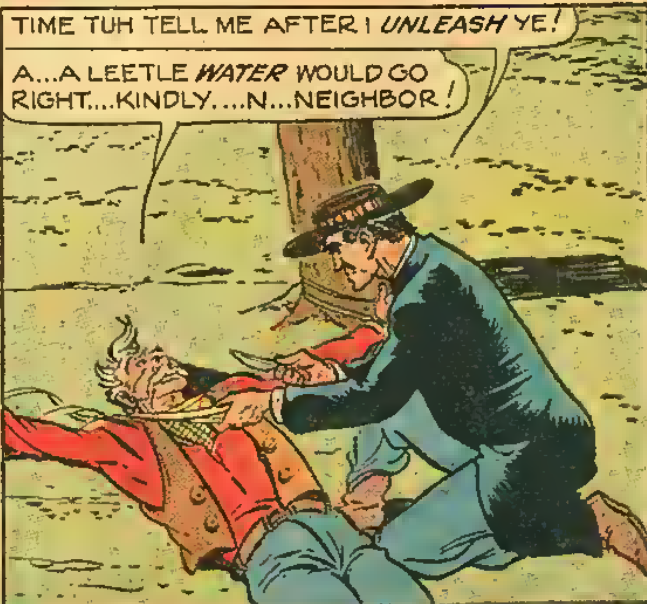
BLESS MY SPURS 'N' SADDLES, WHUT  
HAVE WE  
HERE?!

A...FILTHY  
M...MURDERIN'  
SPALPEEN....  
THAT'S WHUT!!



TIME TUH TELL ME AFTER I UNLEASH YE!

A...A LEETLE *WATER* WOULD GO  
RIGHT....KINDLY....N...NEIGHBOR!



FIGGER YE'D STRANGLE WHEN TH' RAWHIDE  
TIGHTENED, EH?...

WHO DID  
IT?

BRULPH!



A NO-GOOD COYOTE NAMED 'NO DOLLAR' BATES,  
STRANGUH!...IT'S A LONG STORY 'N' HE MAY BE  
HMM!... LIE DOWN AGIN, COMIN' BACK TUH  
NEIGHBOR!! TAUNT ME ANY  
SECOND NOW!

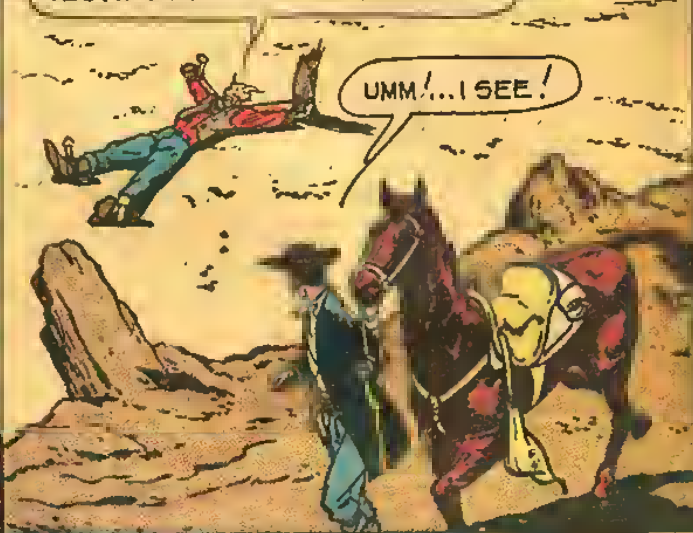


WHUT...??  
YA MEAN??

SHORE!...YE FIGGER HE'LL  
BE BACK SO WE'LL FIX UP  
A LITTLE SURPRISE FER 'NO  
DOLLAR'! LET HIM THINK YER  
STILL TIED UP LIKE A DOGIE...  
MEANTIME YE TELL ME  
ABOUT THIS!

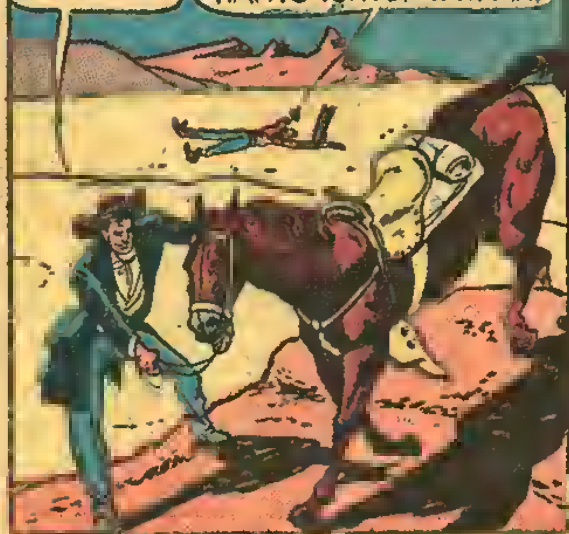


PURTY LITTLE SCHOOL MARM JEST CAME OUT TOTH  
YERE PARTS...SHE SAW 'NO DOLLAR' SHOOT A MAN  
'N' HE WANTS TUH MARRY HER SO SHE CAINT  
TESTIFY AG IN HIM IN TH' COURT!

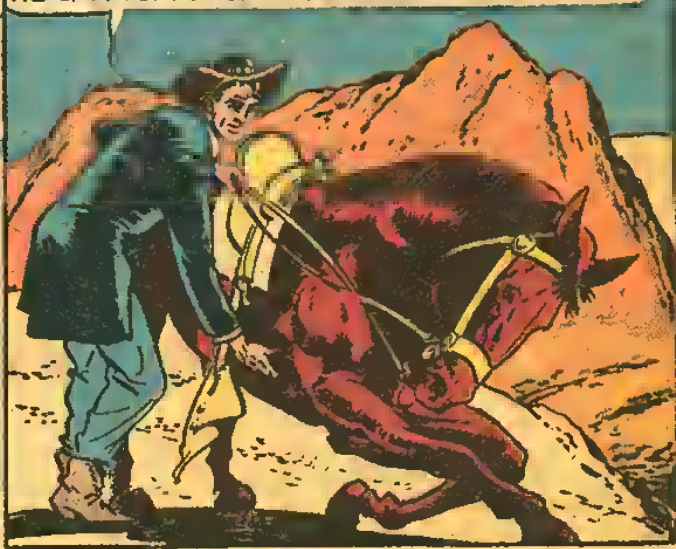


UMM!...I SEE!

I'LL HUNKER DOWN YERE WITH MY HORSE,  
GO ON WITH YER STORY!  
I HID HER OUT 'N' 'NO DOLLAR'  
WANTS TUH KNOW WHAR!



SO HE'S TORTURIN' YE TO GIT IT OUT OF YE, EH?...  
BLAST YORE SPERRIT YE CAYUSE, LAY DOWN  
THAR!... WE WON'T BE SEEN FROM YERE...MEBBE  
WE CAN SURPRISE THIS YERE 'NO DOLLAR'!!!



SO...ALONG ABOUT SUNDOWN

SHORE DO HOPE YE BEEN COMFORTABLE, SAM! FEELIN' A LEE'TLE THIRSTY, MEBBE?

BLAST YER EYES, 'NO DOLLAR'!!...



THET'S SOMETHIN' YE'LL NEVER FIND OUT... 'N' HERE'S WHY...!!

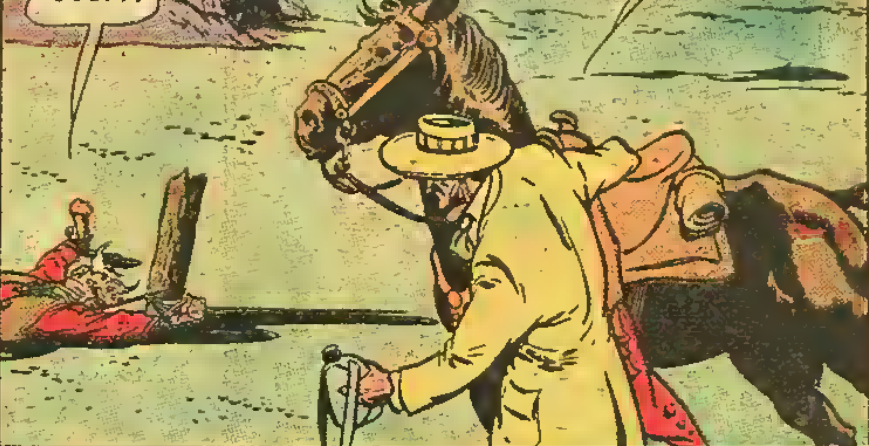


NO THANKS TUH YE. I DIDN'T STRANGLE A STAKE OUT!! YE GOT HELP!! OOF!!



WOULDN'T LIKE TUH THINK YE'D BEEN UNCOMFORTABLE!... HEAH!... HAVE A DRINK ON ME!!

KEEP IT, YE SCUM!



'COURSE EF YOU'D LIKE TUH TELL ME WHAR MISS PRIVIT IS...?.....



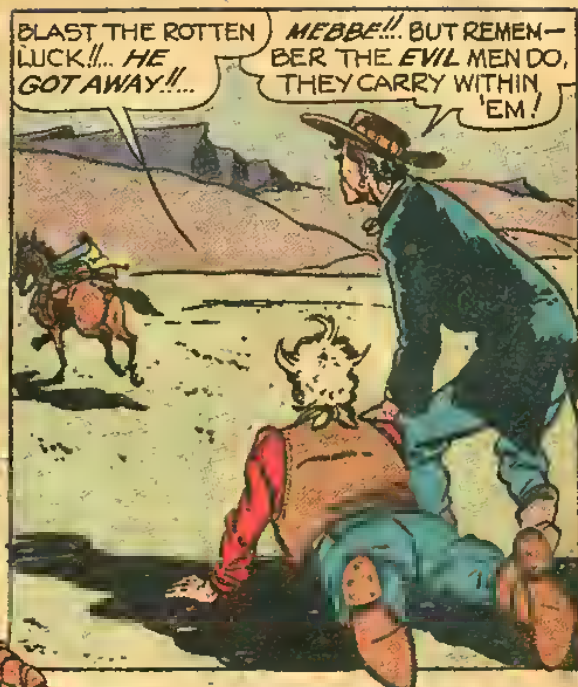
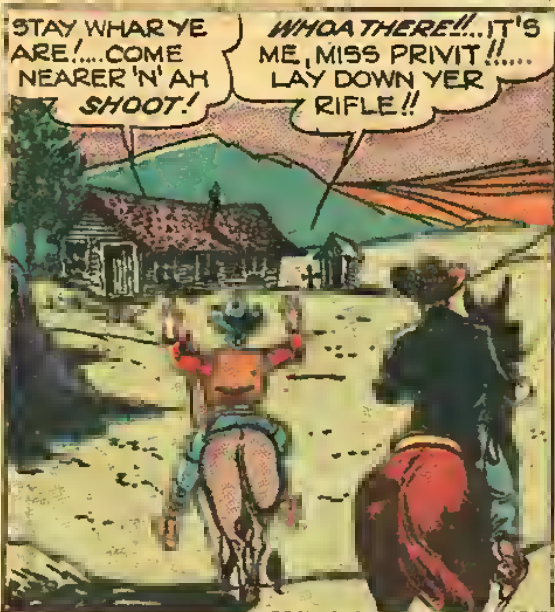
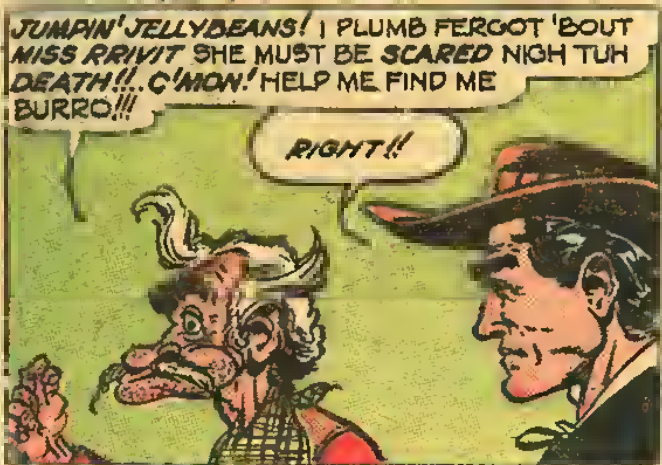
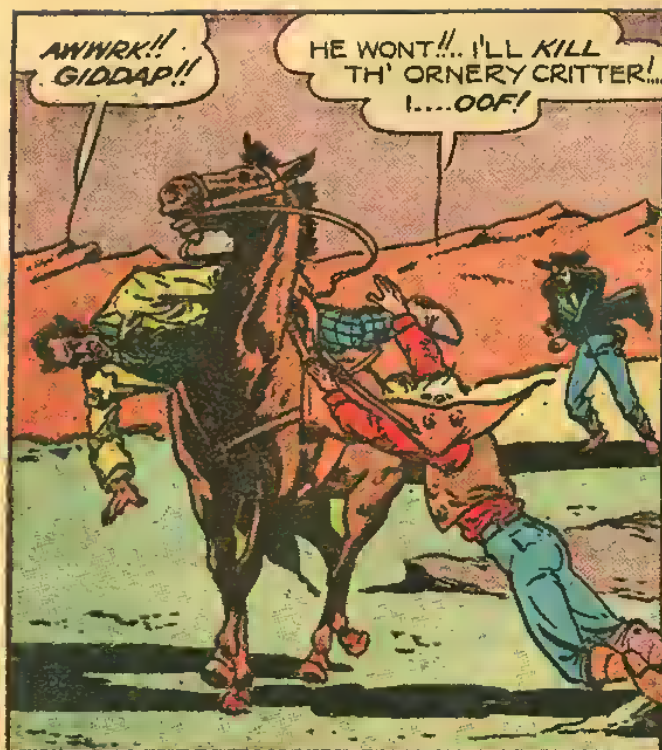
ULP!!... YER NOT...! GASP!!

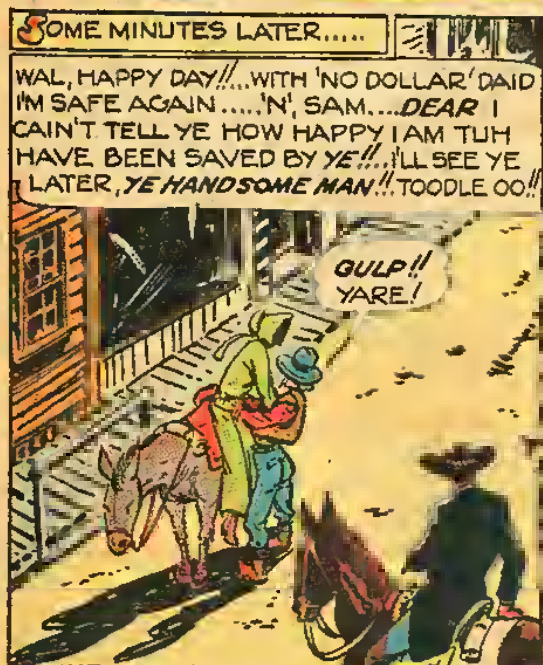
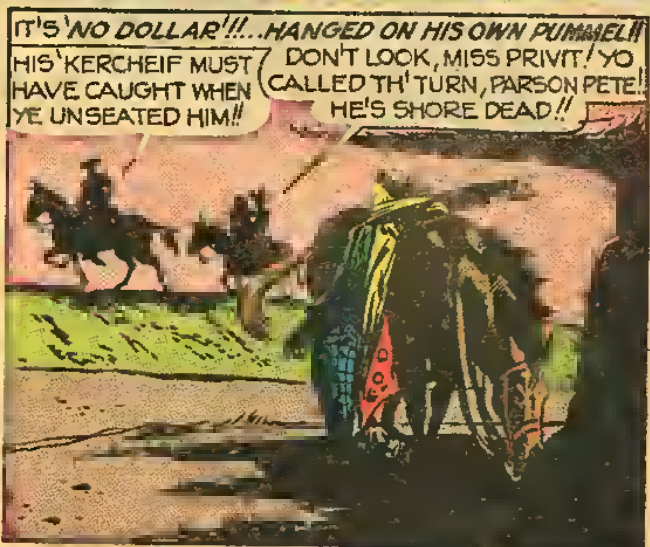
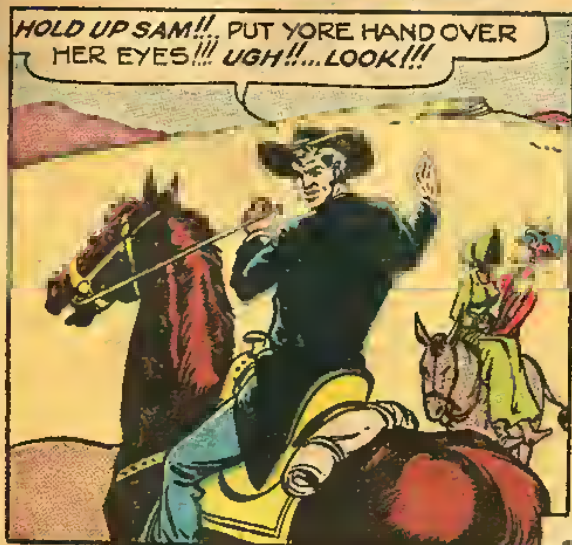
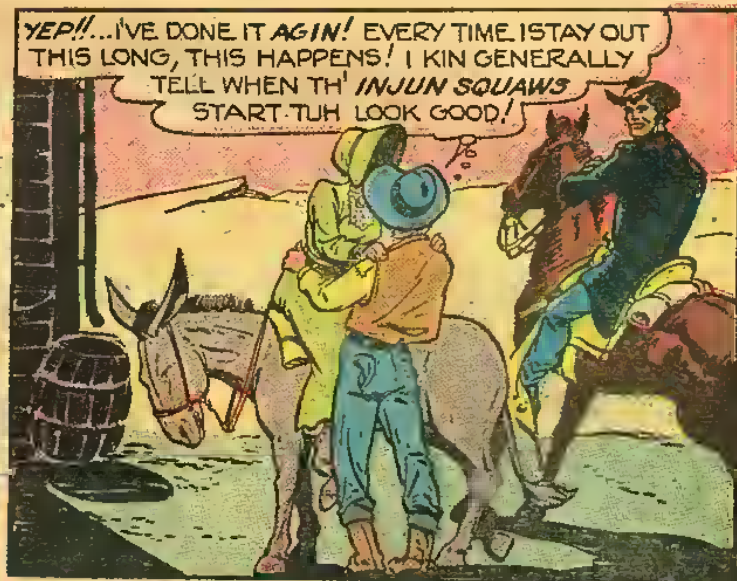
NO! BLAST YE!! I'M NOT TIED!



GET 'IM, SAM!! DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!

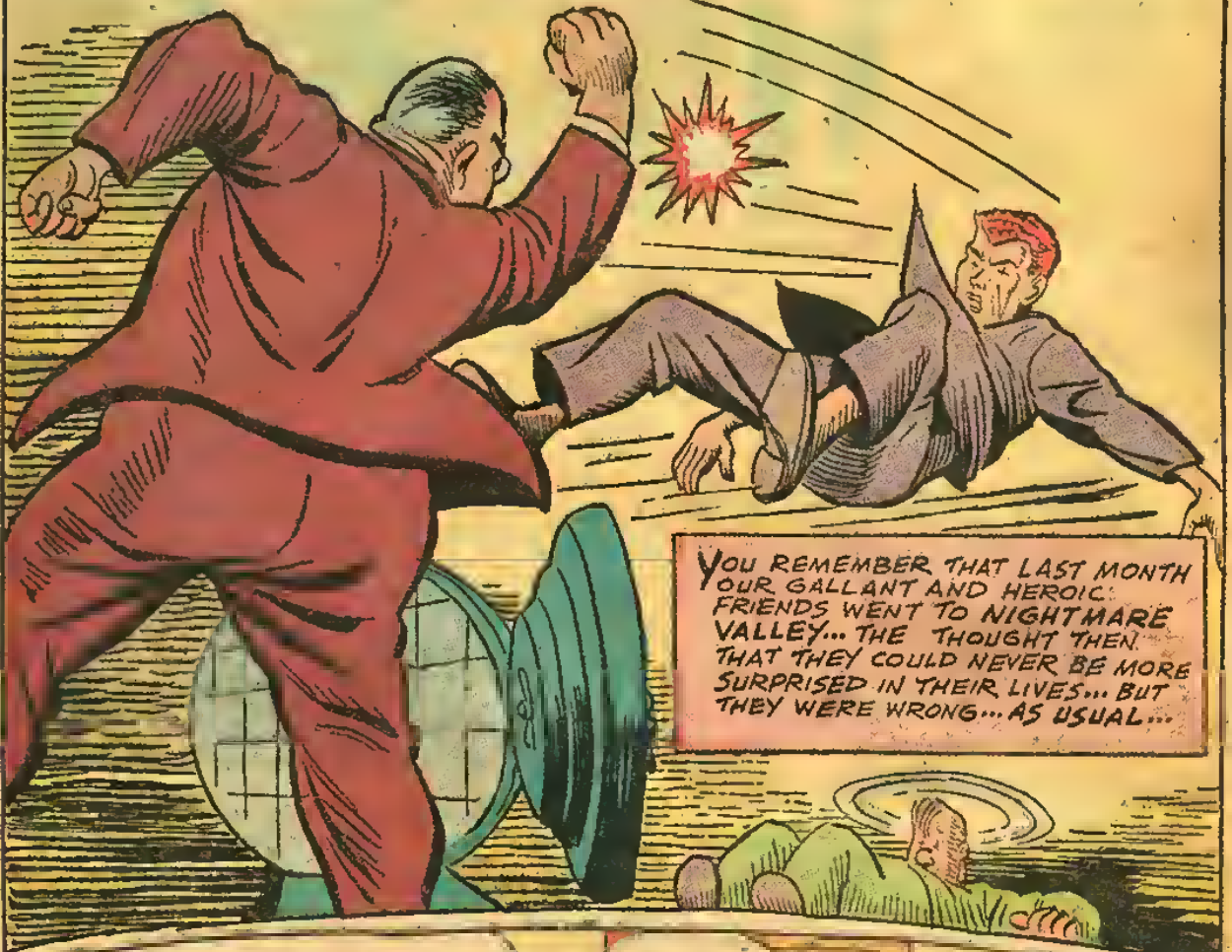






# FLATTY FOOTE

& "I'll Be Glad When You're Dead!"



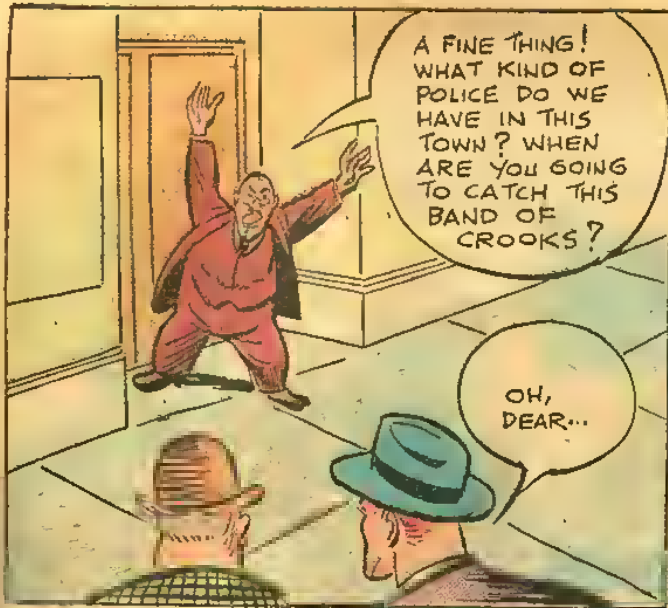
YOU REMEMBER THAT LAST MONTH  
OUR GALLANT AND HEROIC  
FRIENDS WENT TO NIGHTMARE  
VALLEY... THE THOUGHT THEN  
THAT THEY COULD NEVER BE MORE  
SURPRISED IN THEIR LIVES... BUT  
THEY WERE WRONG... AS USUAL...

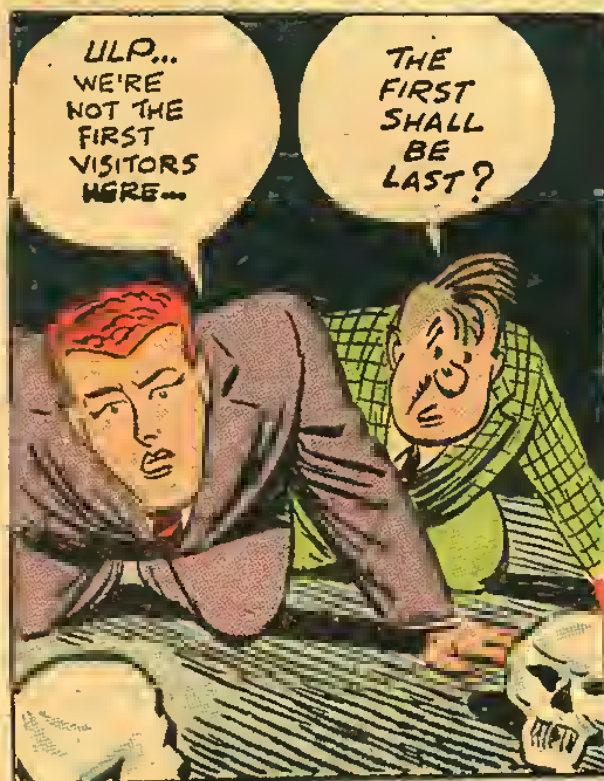
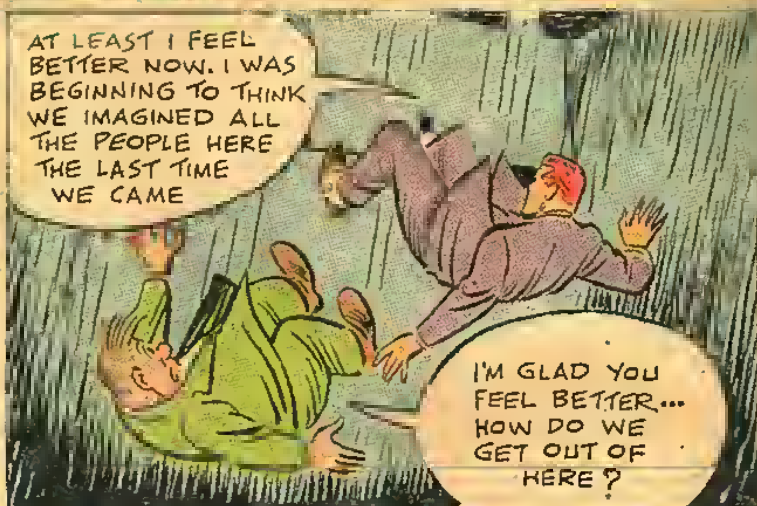
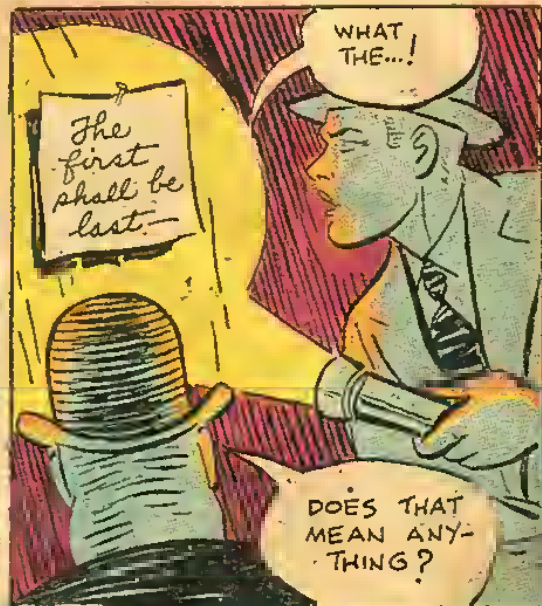


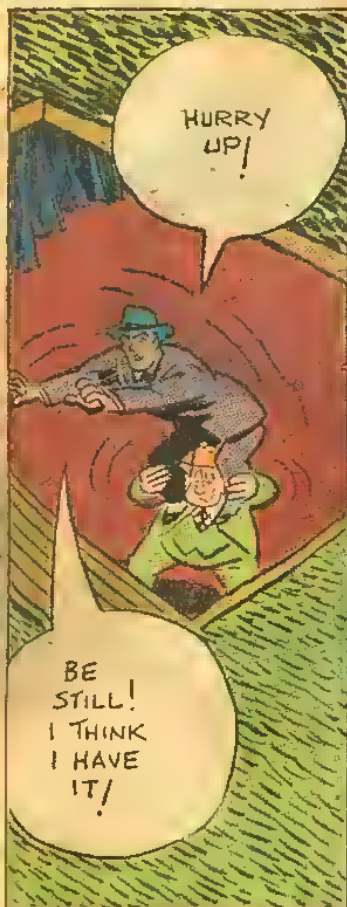
I KNOW WE GOTTA GET BACK  
TO NIGHTMARE VALLEY, PRANCE,  
BUT I'M AFRAID TO, IF  
YOU MUST KNOW!

DONT TELL  
A SOUL,  
FLATTY,  
BUT I AM  
TOO!

THE  
NATIONAL  
BANK







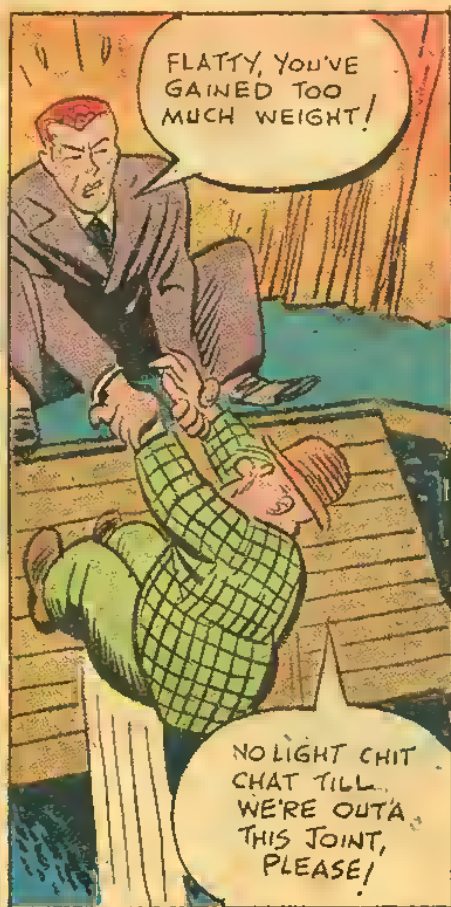
HURRY  
UP!

BE  
STILL!  
I THINK  
I HAVE  
IT!



I  
MADE  
IT!

BUT DON'T  
FORGET ABOUT  
ME! COME ON..  
THESE SKELETONS  
LOOK TOO  
FRIENDLY!



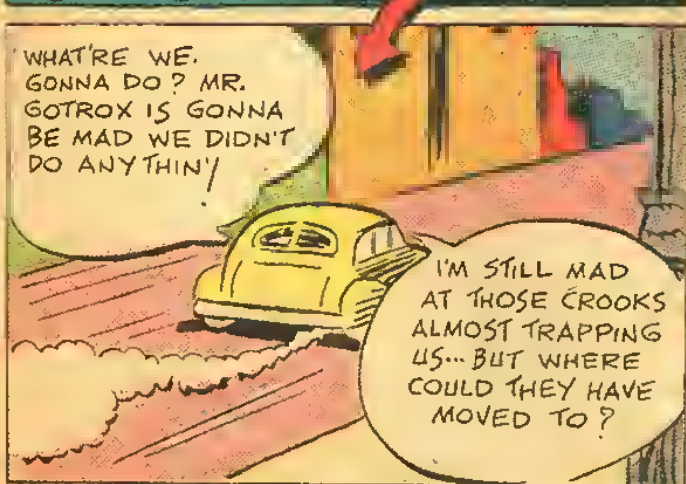
FLATTY, YOU'VE  
GAINED TOO  
MUCH WEIGHT!

NO LIGHT CHIT  
CHAT TILL  
WE'RE OUTA  
THIS JOINT,  
PLEASE!



SO WE'RE NO  
FURTHER  
FORWARD  
THAN WHEN  
WE CAME  
HERE!

EXCEPT FOR THE  
NOTE, AND I CAN'T  
FIGURE THAT  
OUT!



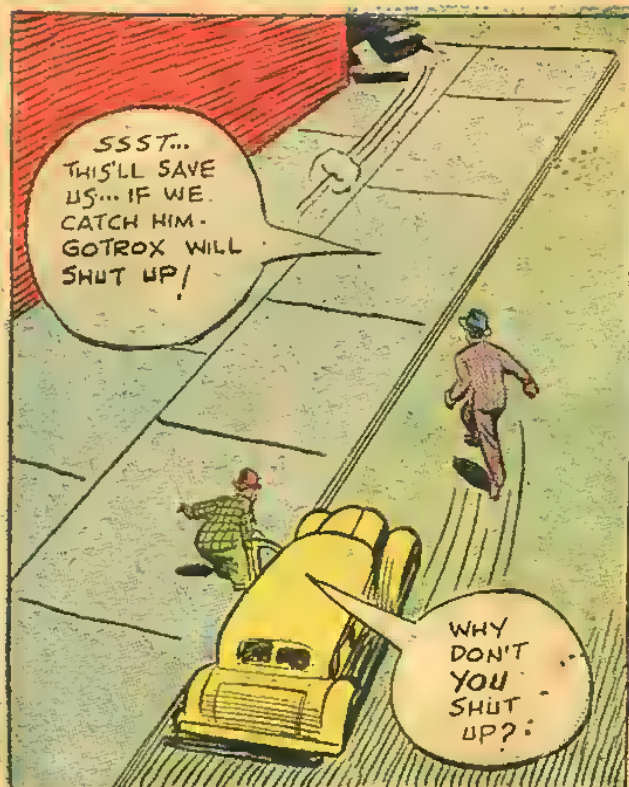
WHAT'RE WE  
GONNA DO? MR.  
GOTROX IS GONNA  
BE MAD WE DIDN'T  
DO ANYTHIN!

I'M STILL MAD  
AT THOSE CROOKS  
ALMOST TRAPPING  
US... BUT WHERE  
COULD THEY HAVE  
MOVED TO?

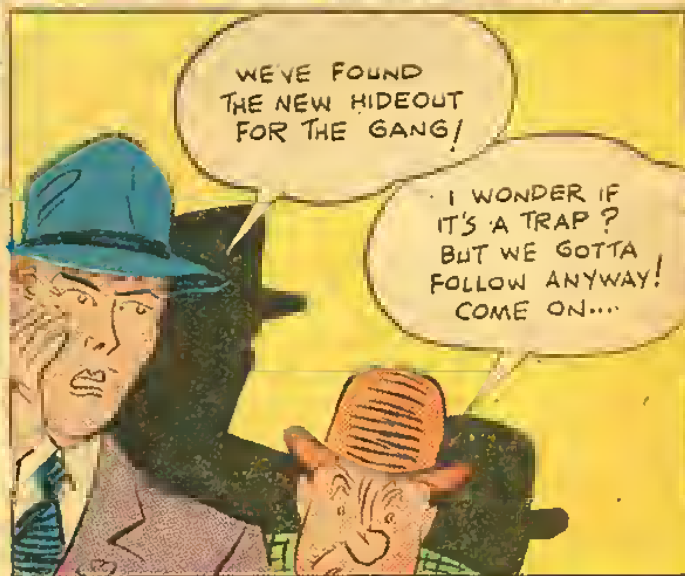
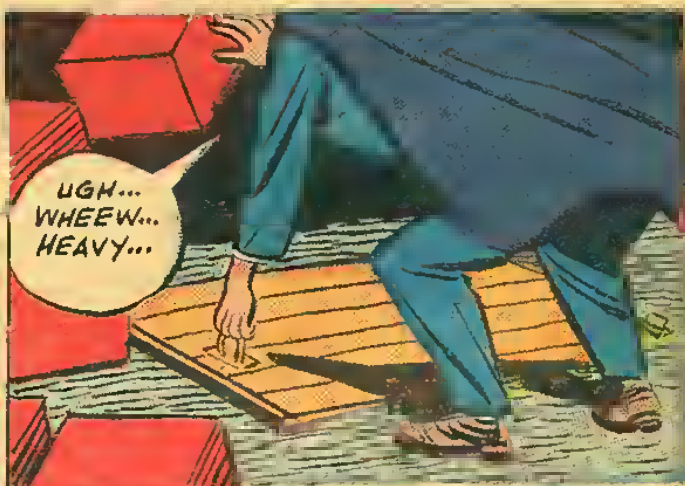
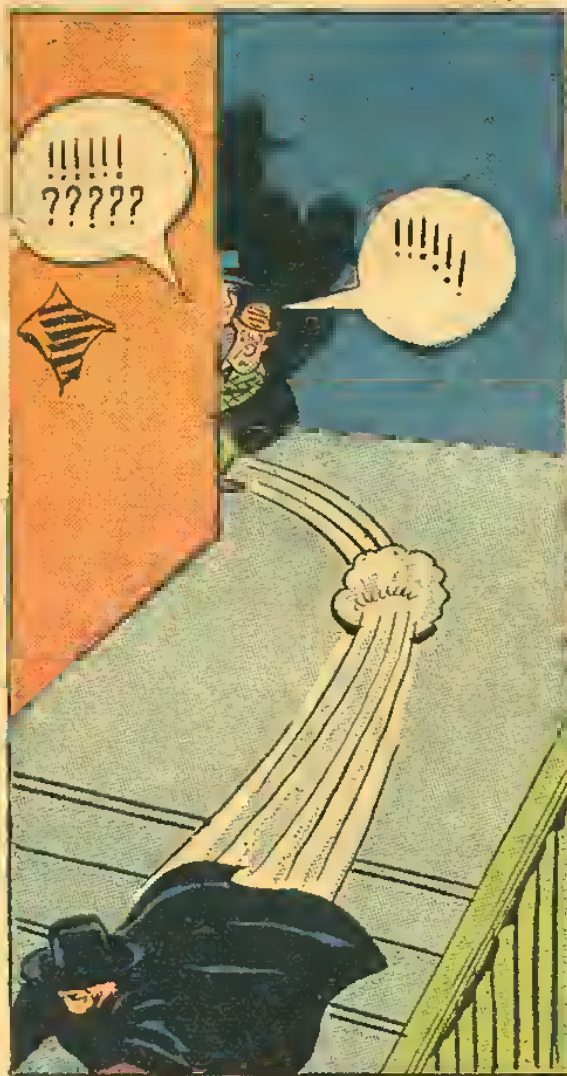


GASP! PRANCE...  
THAT BLACK  
FIGURE... ISN'T  
THAT THE  
VAMPIRE... THE  
LEADER OF  
THE CROOKS?

IT  
IS!  
COME  
ON...



TRAILING THE SINISTER FIGURE  
TO HIS LAIR!



AHEAD OF THEM... A GLOATING LAUGH...

THEY FOLLOWED  
ME LIKE LAMBS  
TO THE SLAUGHTER!

GOOD... HIST...  
HERE THEY  
COME!

STILL  
NO  
SIGN  
OF  
ANYONE...

NO?

WELCOME  
!

MR GOTROX! THE  
BANK PRESIDENT!

ONE MOVE  
AND I PLUG  
YOU BOTH!

GET IN THERE AND COOL  
OFF... VAMPY, YOU SLAM THE  
DOOR ON THEM. THEY'LL BE  
DEAD BY THE TIME THE DOOR  
IS OPENED TOMORROW!

AND ALL THE OTHER  
COPS WILL THINK  
THEY'RE CROOKS  
CAUGHT IN THE ACT!  
...HO... HO...

ALONE AT LAST...

CAUGHT...  
WE'LL DIE  
LIKE RATS  
IN A  
TRAP!

AND I HAVE TO PICK  
NOW TO FIGURE OUT  
THAT MESSAGE! FLATTY!  
THIS BANK USED TO  
BE THE **FIRST** NATIONAL...  
THEN AFTER THE  
CRASH, THEY RENAMED  
IT THE **LAST**  
NATIONAL...

AND THE 'FIRST SHALL  
BE LAST...' PRANCE, THAT  
WAS THE MESSAGE TO THE  
CROOKS... A FINE TIME TO  
FIGURE IT OUT!

CAN EVEN OUR INDOMITABLE  
HEROES ESCAPE FROM THE  
DEATH TRAP?  
WAIT TILL NEXT MONTH... THERE'S  
EVEN MORE TROUBLE AFOOT!

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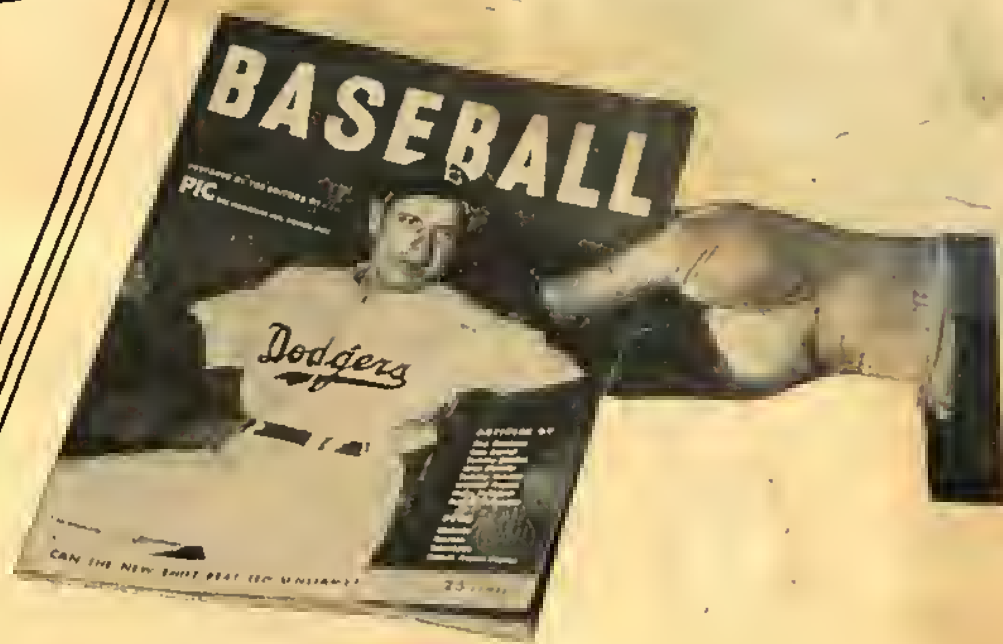
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